

Hafa Adai!

Dismissal of charges sought in case vs. murder suspect. **PAGE 3**
CHCC: Over 300 diagnosed with cancer. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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HIGHLIGHTING PARENTS

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the National Parent Leadership Proclamation yesterday across the Tanapag Middle School.

See story on Page 3

ERWIN ENCINARES

10-pct. budget cut projected

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is looking at about a 10-percent cut in budgetary proposals once all agencies and departments under the CNMI government submit their respective proposals for the next fiscal year.

The administration is now in the process of crafting the fiscal year 2020 budget and would soon submit

its proposal to the Legislature, with the House of Representatives Ways and Means and the Senate Fiscal Af-

fairs committees doing their part of calling for public hearings and meetings with several government agencies and departments.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said they are calling on all government agencies to scrutinize their budget allocations for their fiscal year 2020 operations in order to help the administration, while keeping their mandate of responding to community needs—all in light of the CNMI still recovering from two devastating typhoons.

See BUDGET on Page 4

HANMI occupancy at 86 pct. in Jan.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported an 85.52-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels in January 2019.

This reflects a 4-percent decrease compared to January 2018.

Average room rates were lower than last year at \$161.56 compared to \$177.89 in January 2018.

A total of 58,417 of 68,310 available room nights sold in January 2019, compared to 72,801 of

See HANMI on Page 4

IN MAYOR EFRAIM ATALIG'S CASE

'Introducing 3 more trips will lead jury astray'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense lawyer of Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig argues that citing three additional trips in the mayor's trial wouldn't help the U.S. government prove its case against the mayor and could possibly lead the jury astray.

RELATED NEWS

► Ataligs fail to find private investigator. **PAGE 5**

David George Banes, the court-appointed counsel for Atalig, pointed out that even the U.S. government has difficulties articulating a logical claim linking it to the charges the mayor faces.

See ATALIG on Page 4

DCCA: At least 50 remain at Kagman shelter

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 110 days after Super Typhoon Yutu slammed into Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018, about 50 individuals comprising 22 families remain at the Cultural Affairs.

RELATED NEWS

► Rotary to donate to shelterees at Kagman facility. **PAGE 12**

Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility as of yesterday morning, according to the Department of Community and

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* that the remaining shelterees are there simply because they have nowhere else to go.

"Most of the [shelterees] had houses that were destroyed," Hunter said. "They really have nowhere to

See DCCA on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is finally ready to present its next big musical, *Tasi*.

PAGE 8



OFF THE WALL

A woman discovers a well-fed tiger inside a cage at an abandoned home in Houston.

PAGE 20



LIFE & STYLE

Gucci's creative director breaks his silence over an \$890 sweater that resembled black-face.

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Local

CHC deemed under the Federal Tort Claims Act

The Kagman Community Health Center received its Notice of Deeming Action that it is covered under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

A deemed health center, its board, and employees are considered federal employees and are immune from lawsuits for medical malpractice, with the federal government action as their primary insurer.

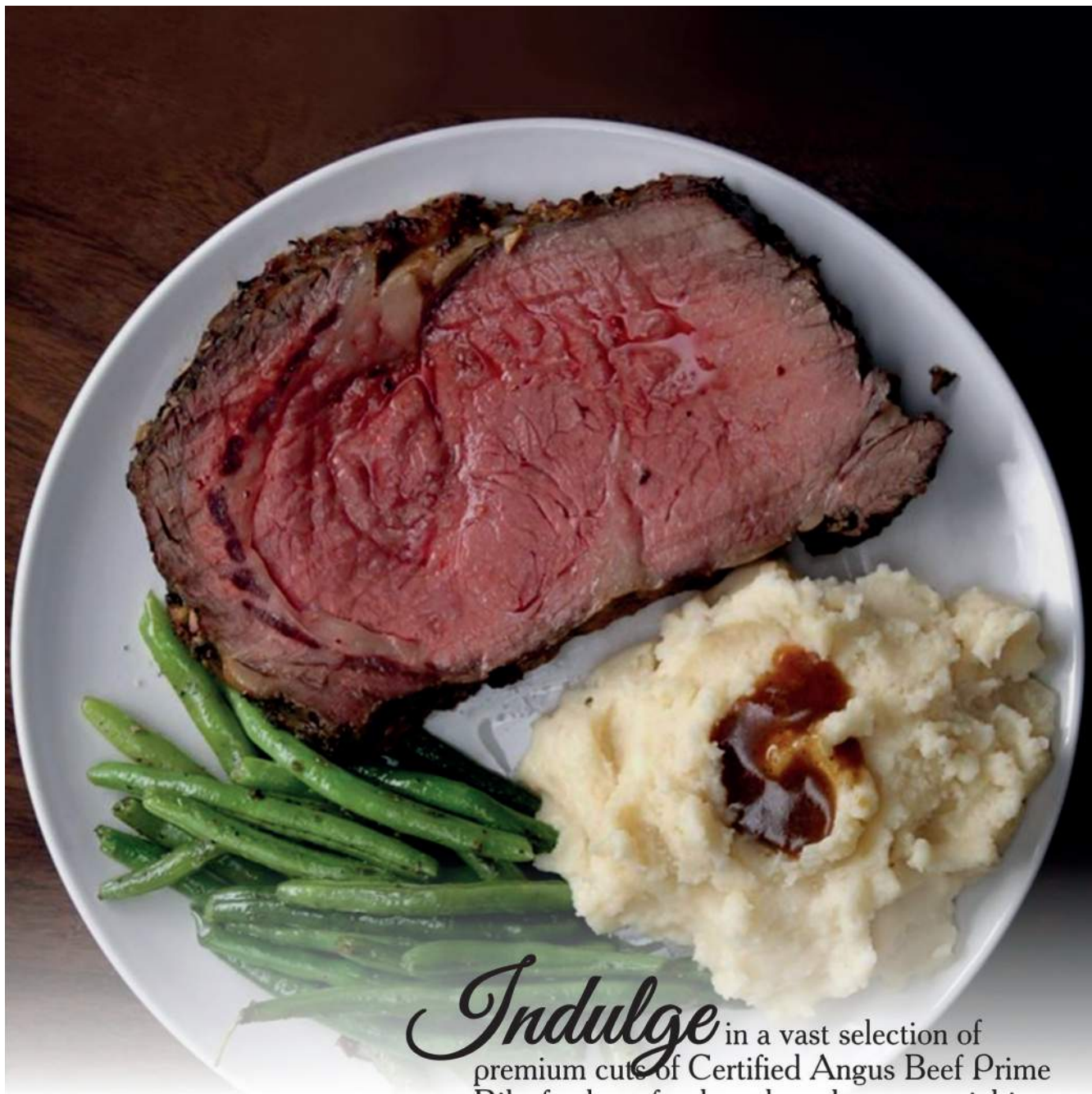
Among other requirements, KCHC had to demonstrate that it has implemented appropriate policies and procedures to reduce risk of malpractice litigation and conducts review and verification of professional credentials and privileges, references, claims history, fitness, professional review organization findings, and li-

censure status of its health professionals in order to be deemed.

KCHC has been unable to get private medical malpractice coverage due to unavailability in the CNMI, "so this is a tremendous accomplishment," according to a statement from the KCHC.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. (PR)



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Dismissal of charges sought in case vs murder suspect

The Office of the Public Defender wants the murder charges against Alfonso Sebastian Parongan be dismissed due to over 15 months delay in the trial.

Parongan, who is accused of stabbing his female landlord to death and injuring her husband in Chalan Kanoa, has been in prison since his arrest in 2017.

Assistant public defender

Nancy A. Dominski, asked the Superior Court to dismiss the charges of first degree murder, attempted second degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon filed against Parongan for violation of his right to a speedy trial.

Dominski said Parongan suffered presumptive and actual prejudice due to the unjustified delay in bringing his case

to trial. She said Parongan has been forced to wait over one year and three months for his case to be resolved.

"This factor weighs in favor of dismissal," she pointed out.

She argued that dismissal is only right because the government is responsible for the delay.

She said Parongan, through his counsel, asserted his right to a speedy trial under the

Sixth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and Article I of the CNMI, orally once each in September and October 2018.

Dominski said the defendant, through counsel, also asserted his right to a speedy trial in writing once again in October 2018 and another in December 2018.

She said Parongan specifically requested a jury trial setting at the last status conference last Jan. 30, but the court denied it.

"Since Mr. Parongan has repeatedly, and timely asserted his right to a speedy trial, this factor should be weighed heavily in his favor," Dominski said.

Last November, assistant attorney general Robert Lee

disclosed to the court that the prosecution's own expert had already evaluated Parongan.

Lee said Parongan, through his counsel, requested and received a mental evaluation by Dr. Martin Blinder.

Blinder returned a report on May 19, 2018.

Based on the results of Blinder's report, the government's own expert made the evaluation, said Lee, without disclosing their expert's evaluation.

Lee discussed briefly the evaluation issue in the government's response to Parongan's motion for a speedy trial.

Lee said defendant's demand for speedy trial does not cite any legal authority.

Lee said defendant's mental evaluation—and the amount

of time it took to complete it—is the primary reason for the delay in his trial.

Parongan, 56, has been in jail since his arrest shortly after the killing incident that occurred in October 2017.

Through his counsel, Parongan has asserted last July a plea of not guilty for reason of insanity.

The woman suffered multiple stab wounds, while her husband sustained 12 injuries in different parts of the head and body.

The woman was reportedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan when the two got into argument in the evening of Oct. 29, 2017. He allegedly stabbed the woman and her husband with a kitchen knife. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

311 parents, 177 kids served in parenting classes last fiscal year

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 311 parents and 177 children were served in parenting classes in fiscal year 2018, according to Parents Anonymous Inc. Groups and Children's Programs under the Division of Youth Services.

This program, which gives parents leadership skills at home and equips them with parenting resources, was the highlight in yesterday's proclamation signing across the Tanapag Middle School, with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declaring February as the 2019 CNMI Parent Leadership Month.

The DYS program is led by DYS administrator Vivian Sablan.

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, a lot of society's ills are rooted in a skewed home environment.

"There is this whole array of societal educational issues that we deal with such as loss of language, educational outcomes, and their health and well-being," Hunter said. "...

But really, a lot of these issues are rooted in a singular issue, [which is] parenting or what is happening at the home."

This is why recognizing parent leadership is important, he added.

In an interview, Palacios noted that good parental leadership at home can only lead to a better and stronger community.

"Being a parent is a 24/7 job, but a stronger community starts from strong parenthood and a strong family, so it is very important that we continue to insist on ourselves as parents to listen to our children because we can only be better if we raise our children in a better...emotional environment, physical environment, and temporal environment," he said.

"It is very important for us to continue these engagements

with our families and parents," he added.

The CNMI Parents Anonymous Inc. would be holding a roadside waving this afternoon from 4:30pm to 5:30pm at the Atkins Kroll intersection along Beach Road.

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Court delays ruling on motion for mistrial

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court delayed yesterday its ruling on the motion for a mistrial filed during the jury trial for an alleged rape case and will continue the hearing today.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja heard the arguments of both parties in the Manolo Romolor case and said that the hearing for a mistrial will be



Naraja

continued at the CNMI District Court today.

The jury trial in the rape case will continue to be delayed until a ruling is reached on the motion for mistrial filed by defense lawyer Bruce Berline.

Romolor is on trial for alleged rape.

In the continuation of Romolor's jury trial last Tuesday, Berline verbally filed a motion for a mistrial, accusing the prosecutor, assistant attor-

ney general Teri Tenorio, of incompetence. He said Tenorio was vouching for the witness, misstating testimonies, and testifying for the witness.

Tenorio opposed the mo-

tion for a mistrial, arguing that the Commonwealth acted in good faith and that Romolor's due process rights were not violated.

"Merely addressing the

testifying witness by her legal name does not amount to vouching...Leading questions suggest to the witness the answer desired, or which embody a material fact,

and may be answered by a mere negative affirmative, or which involve an answer bearing immediately the merits of the cause, and indicating to the witness a representation which will best accord with the interests of the party propounding them," she argued.

CEC certifies candidacies of 4 in special polls

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board of directors has certified the candidacies of four individuals who are running for a vacant Precinct 3 seat in the House of the

Representatives.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol disclosed yesterday that the board approved in a meeting last Tuesday the nominating petitions and candidacy documents of former representative Donald Cabrera Barcinas, Marco Taisakan Pe-

ter, David Castro Sablan, and Mariano DLG Fajardo.

The special election would be held on March 23.

Igitol said the board also approved the ballot layout and authorized the commission to proceed with the printing of ballots.

CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan presided over the meeting. Also present at the meeting were directors Joseph E. Santos, Vicente T. King, Leilani I. Manglona, Henry Emery Kaipat, and Esther A. Yatar.

Igitol said all four candidates showed up at CEC last Saturday for the drawing of their numbers in the ballots.

Fajardo, an independent candidate, will be No. 1 on

the ballot. Sablan, also an independent candidate, got No. 2. Peter, of the Republican Party, pulled No. 3, while Barcinas, of the Democratic Party, picked No. 4.

The special election will be held on March 23 to fill the vacant seat left behind by representative-elect Francisco D. Dela Cruz, who died last Jan. 6.

Dela Cruz landed fifth in the November 2018 election. Rep. Edmund Villagomez, an independent, obtained the highest number of votes.

Barcinas landed in seventh place in his re-election bid. He was 97 votes behind sixth placer, Rep. Jose Ilo Itibus (R-Saipan).

ATALIG

From Page 1

Banes made the argument in Atalig's reply to the U.S. government's opposition to the mayor's motion to exclude evidence relating to the additional trips.

Banes said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should preclude the U.S. government from introducing evidence related to the three additional trips.

The prosecution earlier notified Atalig that it intends to introduce evidence relating to three trips.

The indictment charged Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, over five other trips.

Mayor Atalig had filed a motion to prevent the prosecution from introducing those evidence at trial.

The U.S. government, through counsel assistant attorney general Eric O'Malley, opposed mayor Atalig's motion.

O'Malley cited, among other things, that mayor Atalig traveled with a 20-person delegation from Rota, including his girlfriend, to attend a conference on traditional medicine at the University of Guam in January 2018, but the two only showed up on the first day and did not attend the remaining three days of the event.

O'Malley said Evelyn Atalig later filed a misleading post-travel report which made it sound as if she had attended

the conference every day.

O'Malley said mayor Atalig authorized Evelyn Atalig to receive the balance of her per diem payment based on that false submission.

In mayor Atalig's opposition filed Tuesday, Banes said the U.S. government is silent as to what Mr. and Ms. Atalig did when they did not go to the conference. "If they engaged in official activities, would [Evelyn] Atalig not be entitled to receive per diem?" Banes asked.

As to the other two of the three additional trips, Banes said the U.S. government does not even mention what specific conduct of Efraim Atalig it expects to show.

"The government has failed to show there is sufficient evi-

dence showing mayor Atalig engaged in uncharged fraudulent conduct," he said.

The defense counsel said evidence of the three additional trips, if offered by the prosecution, would be "highly prejudicial."

Banes said the U.S. government has failed to show that the three additional trips can be characterized as part of the same scheme.

He said evidence of the three additional trips does not prove a modus operandi.

The Ataligs are indicted on five corruption charges for arranging CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under allegedly fraudulent pretenses.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty.

BUDGET

From Page 1

"We have talked to our department heads and other agencies in the government, and we encouraged them to do their own cost-containment. The governor is going to issue some very strong memos and communications to all departments regarding the cost-containment efforts that we're going to implement across the board," said Palacios.

"I can say that we're going to have a reduced budget and we have to be realistic about that. I understand and the [the Office of Management and Budget]... has called for the fiscal year 2020 budget [to have] a conservative reduction of 10 percent in proposals. ...We are going to start at that level."

Rota was hit by Typhoon Mangkhut in September, while the islands of Saipan, especially the southern part, and Tinian got the brunt of Super Typhoon Yutu before the end of October.

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport was soon closed down after the facility sustained major damage and no tourists came in.

Palacios said the two storms, Yutu in particular, gravely affected the CNMI's revenues in the last quarter of 2018.

"We all know what [we went through] after that storm and devastation of that magnitude. For every family, especially on Tinian and the southern part of Saipan, it had a major impact, whether through their homes or through our infrastructure, and even to our economy. Our economy is the backbone

of our budget."

The idea is to start out by reducing the budget across the board in order to be fair to all government agencies and departments. "Then as the priorities come in, we will continue to take a look at it. That's going to be the administrative process, with the executive branch and, of course, it is also going to be a legislative process."

"But there are priorities. Of course, health, education, safety of our people, and the continued recovery efforts. All these programs are going to take precedent over all other programs."

Despite the expected slump in revenues, Palacios said the administration is optimistic that it won't be that substantial. "As we move over the process, we will continue to monitor the revenue base and the revenue level, and adjust [the budget] accordingly."

"But, at the end of the day, I am comfortable to say that our economy is going to have to recover a lot more than that. At a lot more...than even where we at today. We even anticipate the same level of funding for our overall government budget for this fiscal year and the next."

The CNMI budget in fiscal year 2019 was a record-high of \$258,139,107—which was \$11.2 million higher than the \$247 million in fiscal year 1997, at the peak of the Commonwealth's two major revenue sources—garment and tourism.

The fiscal year 2019 budget was also \$21.4 million higher than the fiscal year 2018 budget of \$236.77 million.

DCCA

From Page 1

go back to."

"Most people want to move back to their place and clean and fix their place up, but most of the people back in the shelter have no other place to go, really," he added.

Most are already looking at alternative housing options.

"It was difficult before Super Typhoon Yutu. Housing was at a premium and it

wasn't that readily available, but it is even harder now with fewer residences and higher rent," he said.

The KESF still remains as a long-term temporary shelter facility.

In a previous interview, Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* that talks with the CNMI Legislature would be "forthcoming" on the legal processing and designation of the KESF as a permanent long-term shelter for future disasters.

However, as of publication, Hunter noted that discussions have yet to be finalized.

"As we see the shelterees start transitioning back to homes, we need to have this discussion about what we need to do to [permanently designate the facility as a long-term shelter]," he said.

Hunter noted that his department has put in the effort to have the building air-conditioned and getting the water pumps and tanks to work.

"There are still a few things

that need to be done that are on order. ...It is a matter of [preserving] it and keeping it up somewhat so that it is ready to go in the event of a disaster, so that we have a facility that we can use," he said.

The building is still under the jurisdiction of the CNMI Department of Corrections, according to Hunter, adding that discussions with the CNMI Legislature have yet to start.

"Those discussions are forthcoming," he added.

HANMI

From Page 1

81,554 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

The reduced number of hotel rooms reflects the continued closure of hotel rooms damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, as well as the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa on Oct. 1, 2018.

"It's a welcome relief for our hotels to see occupancy begin to normalize following Super Typhoon Yutu in late October," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As we await the resumption of all flights from Korea and

the commencement of new flights from Japan, the job before us now is to work with the government to help ensure we keep our China visitors through the U.S. immigration parole system and that we ensure we have an adequate workforce to sustain the industry. Without those two elements, our collective efforts to recover from the physical catastrophe of Yutu will really be for naught, because it would be an economic catastrophe for the Marianas, as the China market currently makes up 50 percent of our tourism economy."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum

for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects, including \$20,000 in holiday meal vouchers distributed via charitable organizations following Super Typhoon Yutu. HANMI is also collaborating with the Marianas Visitors Authority and other partners on an upcoming mega-event in April to reboot the destination.

"At this moment, the Korean market outlook for March is at a critical low pre-booking status for hotels," said Cavanagh. "We need to support the MVA and our tourism partners

in the Korean market to get the word out that Saipan and Tinian are open and recovered from Typhoon Yutu. We urge all partners, sponsors, and the community to support the MVA in its efforts, which will ultimately benefit government, local businesses, employees, and all residents."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. (PR)

Ataligs' lawyers find no suitable investigator

The court-appointed counsels for Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, have not been able to find any suitable private investigator to assist them with the criminal case filed against the Ataligs before the federal court.

David George Banes and Steven P. Pixley, counsels for mayor Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, respectively, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Wednesday that they need more time to find a private investigator and to conduct investigations, including to interviewing potential witnesses.

Banes and Pixley asked the court to move the trial to early May 2019, instead of the current schedule of March 12, 2019.

The defense lawyers said assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, the lawyer of the U.S. government, has indicated that he would not oppose the requested.

If their request is granted, the Ataligs are also asking for adjustments in the pre-trial deadlines.

The Ataligs said if the pre-trial conference that is currently set for Feb. 19 is retained or if the court sets a hearing for the motion for continuance, they would like to appear by telephone to save on expenses.

The superseding indictment charged mayor Atalig and Evelyn Atalig each with wire fraud, conspiracy, theft from program receiving federal funds, and false statements.

The charges involve at least five trips taken by the Ataligs in 2018. A large number of potential witnesses live outside the CNMI such as Guam and the U.S. mainland.

Banes and Pixley said they need to obtain information from those potential witnesses but have been having difficulties in doing so without the help of a private investigator.

Banes and Pixley said they have acted diligently in trying to find a suitable private investigator. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

8 NEWS BRIEFS

Free ANA grant workshop

The Administration for Native Americans, through its Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance provider in Hawai'i, Ka'anani'au LLC, is offering a free one-day workshop, Pre-Application Training, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, on Feb. 20, 2019, from 8am to 4pm, to help participants write an ANA grant for the next cycle. **(PR)**

Xavier High School entrance exam

Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia will be conducting its entrance exam here on Saipan on Feb. 23, Saturday, at Mt. Carmel School. The exam, open to all seventh and eighth graders, will be held from 8:15am to 11:30am. For more information, call or text Friends of Xavier-CNMI president Ivan A. Blanco at 2858768. **(PR)**

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CHCC: Over 300 diagnosed with cancer

In a four-year span, from 2012 to 2016, over 300 people in the CNMI have been diagnosed with a form of cancer, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., citing its numbers.

Within that period, a total of 309 residents were diagnosed with cancer, CHCC said Wednesday, with gynecological cancer leading the pack at 75 instances, or 25 percent.

Gastrointestinal cancers followed closely at 65 diagnoses or 21 percent; head and neck cancers at 59 diagnoses or 19 percent; breast cancer at 46 diagnoses or 15 percent; lung cancer at 29 diagnoses or 9 percent; urological cancer at 18 diagnoses at 6 percent; and 16 other diagnosed cancers at 5 percent.

CHCC noted that gynecological cancer, the leading cancer diagnosis in the CNMI, is easily detectable due to the presence of human papillomavirus, or HPV, even before it can develop into cervical cancer.

"A Pap smear and HPV test are simple and important screening exams that can de-

tect these abnormal changes in the cervix," CHCC noted in a statement, adding that both tests can easily be done with a visit to an obstetrician gynecologist or even a primary care doctor.

"According to the CNMI's Cancer Registry, gynecological cancer ranks the highest among all cancers diagnosed in the CNMI. From 2012 to 2016, gynecological cancer rates are 95 per 100,000 women for those age 21 to 64 years old," CHCC stated, adding that through their breast and cervical screening program under the Division of Public Health Services, they celebrated Cervical Cancer Awareness Month throughout January with collaborative activities such as outreach screening clinics on Rota and Tinian.

"These two-and-a-half-day clinics were able to reach and screen 25 women who have either never had a Pap test or whose last Pap test was three or more years ago," CHCC noted.

Similar outreach efforts in partnership with the Hyatt

Regency Saipan, Kensington Hotel, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan helped spread awareness of cervical cancer to over 2,000 total employees.

CHCC was also able to partner with the Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club and the Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag with Fr. Neil Bullos. Combined, they were able to reach out to 130 individuals.

"Cervical cancer can be prevented by getting the HPV vaccine, routine scheduling of Pap smears and HPV tests, and by practicing healthy lifestyle behaviors," CHCC noted, adding that both male and females may obtain HPV as early as 11 years old, further increasing the importance of the vaccine.

The Breast and Cervical Screening Program can assist women in getting a Pap smear and HPV test if there are between the ages of 21 and 64, are uninsured or underinsured, and have resided in the CNMI for at least a year. *(Erwin Encinares)*



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS report cards out today

Saipan Southern High School will be releasing report cards today, Feb. 15, 2019, to the students. Also, SSHS has returned to full-day schedule starting Monday, Feb. 11,

2019. Should there be any questions, call the school at 664-4000 or 783-8988. *(PR)*

Military to conduct trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force

will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 15, from 11:30am to 6:45pm. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. *(PR)*



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MCS Theatre Club presents *Tasi*

After months of delays caused by Super Typhoon Yutu, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is finally ready to present its next big musical, *Tasi*, an original musical about the Marianas featuring music from the island. The show will run on Thursday, Feb. 21, and Friday, Feb. 22, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

Inspired by Disney's *Moana*, *Tasi* is an original story written by club adviser and school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero. The story follows *Tasi* as she struggles between family expectations, traditions, and her own aspirations. The production will also feature music from and about the islands.

Tasi is being directed by Kallea Borja, who was the assistant director for 2017's hit production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*

When asked why she stepped up to direct *Tasi*, Borja said she wanted to "present our local culture through it. I believe that we need to promote our local culture and embrace it, and surely *Tasi* is the play that can do just that!"

"Just like our islands is #MarianasStrong in recovering from the typhoon, our cast and crew members have been Knight-strong in pushing through with the show," she added.

In the show, Kina Dela Cruz will play the lead, titular role of *Tasi*. While Dela Cruz has acted in numerous shows over



In a scene from the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Tasi*, Kina Dela Cruz, right, as *Tasi* faces off with her father, Tano, center, played by John San Nicolas, and her aunt, Rastro, played by Kalyn Diaz.

MCS THEATRE CLUB



Joanie Paraiso, the art designer for the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Tasi*, works on sets and props for the show.

MCS THEATRE CLUB

the years, this is her first lead role. While nervous, Dela Cruz is honored to play the role. "I really like that I get to represent my culture doing the things that I love about Theatre Club, singing, dancing, and acting."

The show's assistant director and club veteran, Brandee Hunter, is also very excited about the show. "So far, being

an assistant director has been one of my favorite roles in a theatre production." Hunter has acted in numerous past productions and has also served on the crew.

Looking ahead, Hunter said, "I feel nervous and excited at the same time for this show. ... This play will be one of the best productions that the The-



Special set pieces for the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Tasi* were built by HBR International and delivered recently to the school ahead of the show.

MCS THEATRE CLUB



Cast members of the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Tasi* rehearse one of the many dances featured in the show.

MCS THEATRE CLUB

atre Club has ever done."

Deleon Guerrero shares their excitement. "The show is full of very moving songs, wonderful dances, and top-notch acting. This is not a show to miss!"

Tasi is made possible by the support of IT&E and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. On Feb.

21 and 22, doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$25 for premium seats and \$10 for general admission, available in the school's business office. Due to very limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcar-melsaipan.com. (PR)

Nominations open for Businesswoman of the Year

BARRIGADA, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* is seeking nominations for the

14th Annual Businesswoman of the Year. Nominees must be residents of Guam or the

Northern Mariana Islands.

Nominees should meet the following criteria: a business-

woman who has made a significant difference to business through her for-profit organi-

zation or business; who has contributed to her community; who is a leading representative of her profession or field; and who displays the best qualities of someone in business.

Nominations must be submitted by March 1.

The winner will be announced at the Businesswoman of the Year Gala on April 27 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The Gala is also a fundraiser for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program. The scholarships, open to both full-time and part-time college students, are intended to promote higher education by providing financial assistance to University of Guam, Guam Community College, or Northern Marianas College students pursuing professional careers in business or a related field.

Previous Businesswoman of the Year award recipients include Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Meghan Hickey, business editor, *Guam Business Magazine* at (671) 649-0883 Ext. 126. (PR)



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Defense says OAG picks and chooses which rules to follow

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General picks and chooses which rules to follow in contravention of its duty to pursue justice, among other things, according to assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, who is counsel for a man charged with sex abuse of a minor.

Zona asked the Superior Court on Tuesday to strike the OAG's reply to Joseph Seaman Epina's opposition to a motion hearing, saying it was filed late.

Zona pointed out that in an order setting a motion hearing before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Feb. 4, the judge ordered Epina to file any opposition on or before Feb. 8.

She said Camacho ordered the government to file its reply on or before Feb. 11.

Zona said Epina complied

Small craft advisory in effect

A small craft advisory in the CNMI is now in effect until 6am Saturday. That means wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

Winds and seas remain hazardous across the Marianas,

with the order, but the government did not.

In fact, she said, the government brief states it was filed and served last Monday, but the court stamp indicates it was not filed until last Tuesday at 1:56pm.

Zona said she was served with the government's brief last Tuesday.

"This is not the first instance where the Commonwealth has elected to disregard deadlines," she said.

The 44-year-old Epina is facing charges of raping a then-12-year-old girl inside her relative's house on Saipan on March 12, 2016. The girl told police it was not the first time he had sexually assaulted her.

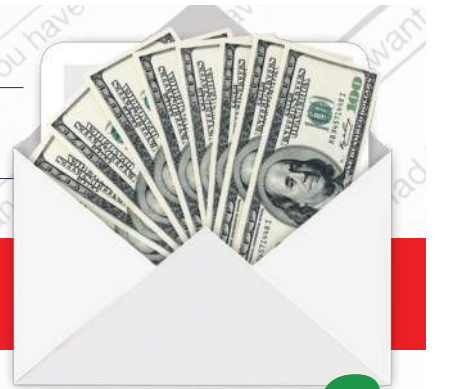
The OAG charged Epina with sexual assault of minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

with northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots and occasional gusts of up to 30 knots. Waves/seas will reach 9 to 11 feet.

The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. (EOC)



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MVA partners with top Korea travel content creator

As a part of its post-Super Typhoon Yutu recovery campaign launched in Korea, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently conducted a co-promotion with the country's top travel content creator and distributor, Travelholic.

The MVA invited prominent social influencers and content creators to the is-

lands in December 2018 to participate in the creation of a short travel video, a series of photogenic images of Tinian and Saipan, and card-news content introducing partner hotels.

"Through our collaboration with Travelholic, we gained some significant, positive coverage online with a variety of

new content aimed at alleviating concerns about travelling to the Marianas after Super Typhoon Yutu," said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. "The word is getting out that we are still a beautiful, safe destination to enjoy."

Travelholic's content creation team traveled to Saipan with eight film crews, includ-

ing photographers, videographers, and models to produce a three-minute viral travel video and to take high-quality photos.

The video team visited and captured Saipan's major tourist locations including Managaha, Mt. Tapochau, Forbidden Island, Obyan Beach, Ladder Beach, and more.

The three-minute video clip was featured on Travelhoic's social media channels and gained over 16,700 views on YouTube, over 4,800 reactions on Facebook, and 7,900 likes on Instagram.

As part of the content creation crew, photographer Jinistyle (@jinifoto/88,530 followers) along with two fe-

male models, took beautiful photos of nature, sunsets, and roads of Tinian and Saipan. Using the main hashtag #MarianasSTRONG, the photos posted on both Jinistyle's own Instagram and on Travelholic's social media gained huge popularity. The posts focused on promoting the Marianas' full recovery and unchanged beauty.

Additionally, MVA Korea created card-news content using multi-images to promote major hotels in the Marianas.

"The card-news strategy was a positive opportunity for hotels to publicize various promotions and deliver basic information such as hotel amenities, and operational status after Typhoon Yutu," said Kim. "The content featured selected images of each hotel's interior or exterior facilities and a short description providing helpful information for future travelers. It was distributed through Travelholic's Facebook page and Naver Post, gaining a very positive 2,400 engagement and reactions from Korean fans."

Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Lao-Lao Bay Golf & Resort, PIC Saipan, Surftrider Resort Hotel, and Saipan World Resort participated. (MVA)

Emergency power interruptions on Saipan

There will be a series of power interruptions in the following days on Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. These outages will occur on:

■ Saturday, Feb. 16 – 6am to 12pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Garapan

□ Area(s) affected: Beach Road, Garapan

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: S-5 and S-4

□ Pole replacement(s): Four

■ Sunday, Feb. 17 – 6am to 12pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Garapan

□ Area(s) affected: Beach Road, Garapan

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: S-5 and S-4

□ Pole replacement(s): Four

■ Monday, Feb. 18 – 6am to 12pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Garapan

□ Area(s) affected: Beach Road, Garapan

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: S-5 and S-4

□ Pole replacement(s): Four

□ Tuesday, Feb. 19 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Garapan

□ Area(s) affected: Garapan

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: S-10, S-11 and S-12

□ Pole replacement(s): Eight

■ Wednesday Feb. 20 – 8am to 4pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Garapan

□ Area(s) affected: Garapan

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: S-5 and S-4

□ Village location: Chalan Lau-lau

□ Area(s) affected: Chalan Lau and Gualo Rai

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Pole replacement(s): Six

■ Thursday, Feb. 21 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: GR-1

□ Pole Replacement(s): 5

□ Conductor removal: 10 spans

■ Friday, Feb. 22 – 8:am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: GR-1

□ Pole Replacement(s): 5

□ Conductor removal: 10 spans

■ Saturday, Feb. 23 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Pole replacement(s): Six

■ Sunday, Feb. 24 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Pole replacement(s): Six

□ Monday, Feb. 25 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Pole replacement(s): Six

□ Tuesday, Feb. 26 – 8am to 6pm

□ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 3 distribution circuit

□ Village location: Gualo Rai

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Area(s) affected: Gualo Rai Middle Road

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

□ Pole replacement(s): Six

The purpose of the emergency power and water interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 54 wooden poles with concrete poles along Beach Road, Garapan, Chalan Lau-lau, and Gualo Rai villages. The emergency power interruptions are part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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Department of Veterans Affairs VISIT TO SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

AVA Benefits Counselor will be in CNMI

Saipan

Place: CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office

Date: Tuesday - February 19, 2019

Time: 9am to 4pm

Tinian

Place: Mayor's Office

Date: Wednesday - February 20, 2019

Time: 8am to 3pm

Rota

Place: Mayor's Office, Conference Hall

Date: Thursday - February 21, 2019

Time: 9am to 3:30pm



The Benefits Counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-008

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Manglona wants quarrying operations to resume on Rota

By JON PEREZ

jon.perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has asked the Department of Public Works on the possibility of resuming quarrying operations on Rota, in order to support the planned construction of a road from Songsong Village to the airport.

Manglona, who is the Rota Legislative Delegation's

chairman, was prompted to write DPW Secretary James Ada about this after a notice of intent to award was issued last week to the project, called the Rota Route 10 Hazard Mitigation Project.

"We are all aware that the bidding and construction of this project presented many challenges since 2009. For many different reasons over the years, the project was re-

peatedly postponed, the most recent delay being caused by the lack of a quarry business operation on Rota," said Manglona. "This letter is to request your office to discuss the possibility of working out a contract arrangement with the successful contractor to open up a quarry operation on Rota in lieu of shipping the quarry products to Rota from Saipan or Guam."

He pointed out that shipping the quarry products to Rota is unproductive. "Although the



Manglona

cost of shipping the quarry products is already incorporated in the contract bid amount, it is nonetheless very expensive and time consuming."

"In addition, starting a quarry operation will go a long way to helping our Typhoon Mangkhut victims who suffered damage to their homes that require quarry products to be rebuilt or repaired, as well as other pending construction projects on Rota."

Manglona said that repair-

ing and resurfacing the nine-mile stretch of road from Songsong to the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Rota International Airport is long overdue. "We are grateful that you equally share and echo the concerns of our residents that, once completed, this...project will significantly reduce the number of vehicular accidents." "It is also our hope that, in finally moving this road project forward, we can 'kill two birds with one stone' by supporting the establishment of a quarry operation at the same time. Your attention to the foregoing concern is greatly

appreciated."

Almost a week after Typhoon Mangkhut hit Rota last year, Manglona asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to temporarily suspend the regulations governing quarrying and mining operations on Rota to help in the rebuilding projects.

He has sought the lifting of all regulations set by the Mining Safety and Health Administration on quarrying and mining on Rota, with the suspension allowing private companies to begin quarrying operations that would also help in Rota's rebuilding projects.

Book +bento at the NMC library

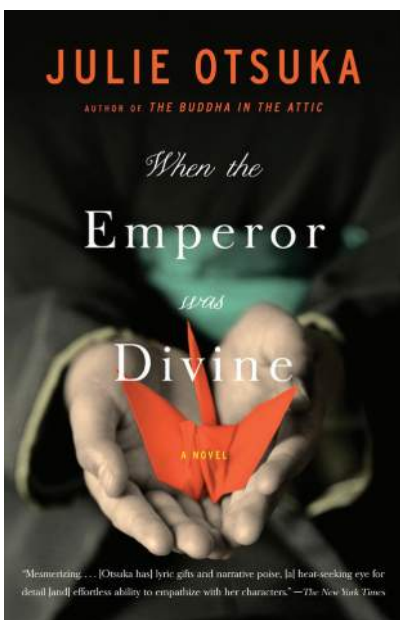
Pacific Historic Parks continues its National Endowment for the Arts Big Read celebration of *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka with Book +Bento on Friday, Feb. 15, at 1pm at the Northern Marianas College library.

This event is presented in partnership with the National Park Service, Northern Marianas College, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The event will feature a video introduction to the book from author, Julie Otsuka. Following the video will be a book talk and short film on the Japanese relocation and internment camps in connection with the book.

Pacific Historic Parks education specialist Jovannalyn Mafnas credits this event to PHP's partnership with Samuel Crawford, NMC's director of Library Programs and Services, "and we hope to continue our partnership with future programs."

The public is invited to par-



ticipate in the event by visiting the NMC library during the scheduled time.

A national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens the understanding of the world, one's communities, and oneself through the joy of sharing a good book.

For more information on this event, contact Mafnas at jmafнас@pacifichistoricparks.org. (PHP)

Updates on immigration laws, regs

The February general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will address updates on federal immigration laws and regulations.

Nelson Xu, a lawyer, will discuss updates and changes to immigration laws and regulations that affect CNMI businesses and employers, and what businesses and employers might want to do in order to better prepare for these changes.

Xu will also discuss other employment-based visas and options that employers may consider besides the H2-B, CW, and EAD (humanitarian parole).

Xu is a partner in the law firm of Baumann, Kondas & Xu, LLC.

He became a partner in 2010 after working as an associate with L.A. Baumann & Associates for five years. Xu specializes in business visas and family immigration.

The SHRM-NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and inter-

ested members of the public to attend its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, at Giovanni's in the Hyatt Regency Saipan beginning at 11:30am.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide valuable information for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff.

The presentation includes the Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. (PR)

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Ford recalls nearly 800K vehicles with airbag inflator issue

By JAMES LIMBACH
WWW.CONSUMERAFFAIRS.COM

Ford Motor Company is recalling the following 782,384 vehicles:

■ Model year 2014 Ford Mustangs sold, or ever registered, in Alabama, California,

Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan) and the U.S. Virgin Islands—or “Zone A.”

■ Model year 2011 Ford Rangers and Mercury Milans,

model year 2011-2012 Ford Fusions and Lincoln Zephyr/MKZs; and model year 2011-2014 Ford Mustangs sold, or ever registered, in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada,

New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia—or “Zone B.”

■ Model year 2010 Ford Edges and Lincoln MKXs, model year 2010-2011 Ford Rangers and Mercury Mi-

lans, model year 2010-2012 Ford Fusion and Lincoln Zephyr/MKZs, and model year 2010-2014 Ford Mustangs sold, or ever registered, in Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mon-

tana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming—or “Zone C.”

The vehicles are equipped with airbag inflators assembled as part of the passenger front airbag modules, used as original equipment or replacement equipment (such as after a vehicle crash necessitating replacement of the original airbags), that may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, temperature and temperature cycling.

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What to do

Ford will notify owners, and dealers will replace the passenger front airbag inflator, free of charge.

The recall is expected to begin Feb. 18, 2019.

Owners may contact Ford customer service at 1-866-436-7332. Ford's number for this recall 19S01.

Poetry slam theme is domestic violence



By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence would be hosting its annual Saipan Teen Poetry Slam in two weeks.

The competition is slated

for Feb. 28 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, from 6pm to 9pm, and those who are aged 13 to 19 are eligible to join as a contestant, but should submit their own original poems and contact information for review before 5pm, Feb. 26, 2019.

Poem submissions must in-

clude the contestant's full name, age, name of school, and contact number, and may be sent within the body of the email, as a word document, or as a PDF file to info@endviolencenmi.org.

The quality of writing, entertainment value of the poem, connection to audience, and

relevance to the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Prevention Month composes the judgment criteria while contestants would be separated into either the 13-15-year-old division or the 16-19-year-old division.

The same competition would be held on Rota on

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, center, signs the proclamation declaring February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month on Monday at the Kagman High School cafeteria as anti-violence advocates look on.

JON PEREZ

Feb. 22, 2019, and a teen talent show on Tinian on Feb. 26, 2019.

“This is a way for children to express themselves via an art [form] that they are comfortable with,” said NMCADSV executive director Maisie Tenorio Monday. “This is another avenue for them to make their voices heard about an issue that they are usually silent about.”

Earlier that Monday, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed the proclamation for Teen Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month at Kagman High School.

Rotary to donate to shelterees at Kagman facility

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan this weekend would be giving donations to the remaining families still living in the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility. There are 22 families that are still there.

Saipan Rotary Club presi-

dent Greg Borja said Tuesday that he and the organization would be handing out donated items from their Rotary Club district specifically for Super Typhoon Yutu victims on Saipan.

“We had received donations from [the Rotary Club District 2750],” said Borja. The district is made up of 127 Rotary

clubs mostly from Japan, but also includes Saipan, Guam, and Micronesia.

“We have a general fund through the district and then they provided a donation to us for Super Typhoon Yutu relief,” he noted.

In an interview Wednesday, Borja said the donations would consist of bath

towels, soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, and other personal toiletries.

“We also have some items for families like diapers, blankets, wipes, daily supplements, and we would also be giving out storage bins,” he added.

The Rotary is also looking to secure laundry bins and detergent and even some board games to donate as well.

“These things are not provided by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs once you are housed in the shelter. These are things that people might have lost during the typhoon and... [these supplies] are just for their needs,” he said Tuesday.

Next week, the Rotary Club of Saipan would also be hand-

ing out 50 supply packages to members of the Women, Infants, and Children Program that are currently housed in tents due to Super Typhoon Yutu as well, but no specific date has been set.

“We ran out of plastic bins right now. ...Once we can get more plastic bins, we will put those packages together,” he said.



Public Participation Requirement



CNMI Public School System Special Education Program

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Participation Requirements, the Public School System Special Education Program is required to circulate for 60 days its grant application for Special Education Funds and allows 30 days during that period for public comments from general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of youth with disabilities. Hard copies of the Special Education Grant Applications are available from Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the Office of Special Education Program, Capitol Hill, House Building 1224.


For Part B – Education Program Special
30 day Public Circulation Period: April 01, 2019 thru April 30, 2019
60 day Public Comment Period: March 4, 2019 thru May 03, 2019

You may also access the Grant Applications on the PSS Website:
Special Education Program:
<https://www.cnmipss.org/student-support-services/>

Comments may be hand delivered to the Special Education Program office located in Capitol Hill, Building number 1224 or phone your comments in to:

Special Education Program: (670) 237-3029

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama, Director, Special Education Program at 237-3029.



Public Participation Requirement



CNMI Public School System Early Intervention Program

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON MAY 3, 2019

60-Day Public Circulation Period: February 18, 2019 to April 18, 2019
30-day public Comment Period: February 25, 2019 to March 25, 2019

Hard copies of the Grant Application are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following location:

Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) in Garapan (670) 664-4841

You may also access the Grant Application on the PSS Website:
<https://www.cnmipss.org/student-support-services/>

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 644-4846, hand delivered to the Children's Developmental Assistance Center located in Garapan or phone your comments into Children's Developmental Assistance Center: (670) 644-4841.

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Director, Early Intervention Program at (670) 644-4841.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB19-CCC-055

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCC

/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP19-CHCC/H.O.M.E. VISITING-009

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 25, 2019 • TIME: 09:00AM

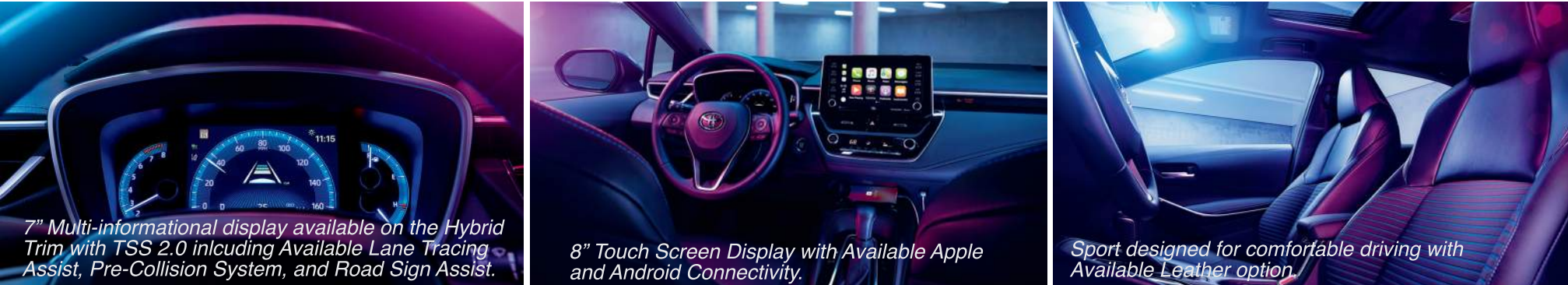
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H.O.M.E VISITING
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

El Chapo's destiny is an American prison cell

El Chapo's murderous Sinaloa drug cartel was based in Mexico, but for years its American nerve center was Chicago. His henchmen from the Little Village neighbor-

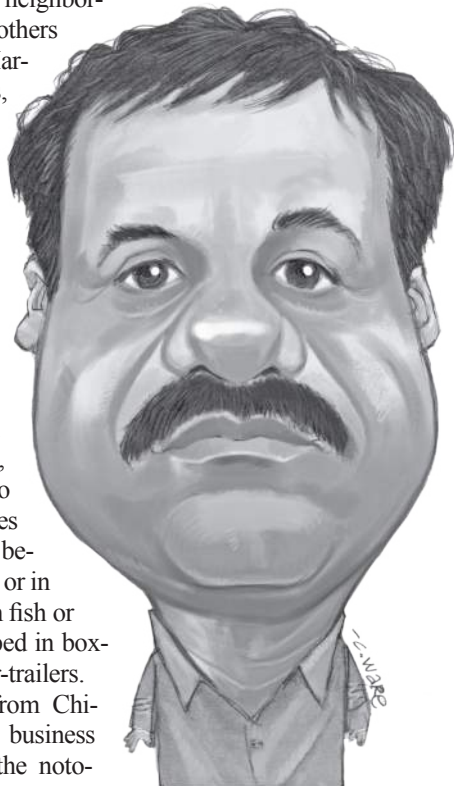
hood, twin brothers Pedro and Margarito Flores, turned the city into a conduit for as much as 1,500 kilos of cocaine and heroin each month that would be distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada. Often, drugs sent to American cities were stashed behind fake walls or in crates of frozen fish or avocados shipped in box-cars and tractor-trailers.

The twins from Chicago were business partners with the notorious drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, but they also were his undoing. They flipped on him, secretly recording him and other cartel members. "Amigo!" Guzman said to one of the Flores brothers in Chicago in a recording of an intercepted phone call. "Here at your service."

Once atop a drug smuggling operation that spanned four continents, Guzman, 61, now faces spending the rest of his life in prison after his conviction Tuesday in a Brooklyn federal courtroom. The 5-foot kingpin's "bloody reign," said Richard Donoghue, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, "has come to an end, and the myth that he could not be brought to justice has been laid to rest."

A declaration universally welcomed, but particularly in this city. A share of those drug shipments that came through Chicago stayed in Chicago. El Chapo's evil stoked street violence and ruined the lives of countless youths here.

In 2013, the Chicago Crime Commission branded Guzman "Public Enemy No. 1," a designation the commission had used just once before—for Al Capone. His fate sealed, Guzman now can don a different number, the inmate kind, that comes with an orange jumpsuit.



(c) 2019 Chicago Tribune



Fixing America is daunting, but doable

WASHINGTON—If it's a day of the week, such as Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, a Democrat is announcing her/his run for the presidency.

Even though we're probably less than half of the way through the whole roster, it's time to take a look at what they are promising. They are going to:

Fight. Unify the country. Take back democracy. Travel the high road and ignore Donald Trump. Stick it too Trump whenever possible. Rebuild a post-Trump world. Eschew big-money donors. Court Rachel Maddow. Restore the middle class, make the rich pay and help families who are rearing children, working fulltime and failing to make ends meet.

They are going to:

Restore our alliances. Combat climate change. Take back tax cuts that benefitted only the wealthiest. Fix the broken immigration system. Rebuild the nation's infrastructure. Make sure those who work hard make enough to live on. Improve education so that a high school degree means something. Reduce the cost of college. Do away with voter suppression laws. Provide universal health insurance. Give parents free child care. Pass a green "new deal" to create more solar and turbine jobs and make the air cleaner.

It's going to be an excruciating two years before we vote. But it will be interesting. And here are some thoughts on why.

We will see if Trump has changed politics permanently to our detriment or if he was merely a wrong turn for the ship of state, which will get back on course to make life better for the people. Will Democrats lie, manipulate, make ridiculous promises they can't keep, just like Trump? Or will we find the occasional statesman who is willing to work hard to learn what she or he doesn't know.

Will we learn to compromise as our founders did or will those who can't get their way shut down government, storm out of the room, scream and yell and completely flummox the body politics.

We will see if it's business as usual when campaign donors and corporations, which, the Supreme Court says are people, too, give huge sums to candidates in the expectation their special interests will rule.

We will see if all the women running make a difference or whether they turn out to be as short-sighted and desperate for reelection as the men.

We will see if principles are real or just another name for Italian noodles.

We will see if Americans will be satisfied with calm, reasoned

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.



debate or demand the bombast, showmanship, vitriol on the stump and bigger-than-life, too-absurd-to-be-true circus of a con artist. Do we want "Jeopardy!" or "The Apprentice"?

We will see if Americans take voting seriously this time or are so disgusted with national politics that they elect the biggest jerk in the race or don't even bother to vote.

We will learn more about ourselves. Are we really so divided we can't function as a democracy anymore? Are we so lacking in civility that we can't work together? Has Trump so shamed us as a nation that we will act to get past our differences and start dealing with our increasingly worrisome problems?

We have been talking about crumbling infrastructure for more than a decade. But we haven't done anything major. This is beginning to impact our economy. The senseless debate over the nonexistent, never-going-to-be-built phony border "wall" has sucked the oxygen out of the room.

The Federal Reserve Bank found that 40 percent of Americans don't have \$400 if they had an emergency. Nearly one out of three Americans have more credit card debt than emergency saving.

One out of five Americans think they will be financially worse off next year than they are today. Some economists are predicting we will be in recession by the end of 2020.

More than 7 million Americans are behind on their car loans by 90 days or more. Without cars most people can't get to work.

Too many of us refuse to accept proven facts as truth. For example, almost 20 years ago the United States said it had eradicated measles. Today 10 states are having an outbreak. Washington state has declared a state of emergency. Too many parents are not getting their children vaccinated because they falsely believe vaccines cause autism. As a result, "vaccine hesitancy" is now one of the top ten threats to global health.

It's on us, citizens. And, yeah, it's daunting, but doable.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Alnitak, Alnilam, Mintaka

Last week in this space, on the topic of the world's 20 most widely-spoken languages, I mentioned a few words in English that came from Arabic. It has since occurred to me that more examples are hanging over Saipan's head. That's because many stars carry Arabic names, including, notably, the three bright stars that comprise the neat line of Orion's belt.

I suspect that Orion, named for a hunter from Greek lore, is humanity's most widely-recognized constellation. Orion is easily recognized via the three stars of the belt; via the bright red star called Betelgeuse that signifies Orion's right shoulder; and via the bright white star called Rigel that signifies Orion's left foot. On that note, this whole "left" and "right" business assumes that Orion is facing us, and of course he is. After all, he's our pal, and a very good pal at that.

Although the prime viewing season for Orion is drawing to its annual close right now, it's still convenient to view Orion from Saipan. At 8pm these days, Orion is high overhead in Saipan's south-southeastern sky.

If you take a look at about that time, you'll notice that Orion is sort of lying down, and his belt is, more or less, running vertically. Going from the lowest of the belt's stars and proceeding upwards, the stars are named Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka. These Arab names are said to mean, respectively, "girdle" or "belt," "string of pearls," and "belt." Their distances from Earth are, again respectively, 817 light-years; 1,977 light-years; and 917 light-years.

They are some of the most distant of the prominent stars.

Yet, despite the great distances, they're all very bright. All three, in fact, are monster stars, "supergiant" stars that shine tens

of thousands times brighter than the sun does. If you put a hairy eyeball on them you'll notice they're all blue, which, in the stellar realm of visible colors, means they're the hottest burners.

Alnitak and Mintaka have surface temperatures of about 60,000F, while Alnilam is cooking at 50,000F.

Blue supergiant stars are extremely rare. However, they're so bright that they are disproportionately visible among their far more numerous, but far duller, brethren.

To put this in context, our sun, a very mild, whitish-yellow star, has a surface temperature of about 10,000F.

With that in mind for scale, we can now put our focus back on Orion and contemplate Betelgeuse, which, as a red star, is in the coolest visual category of stars, burning at about 6000F. And, yes, Betelgeuse is also an Arabic name, said to mean the hand of the giant (the giant being Orion) or the armpit of the giant. Betelgeuse is also a monster star, a supergiant that's roughly 900 time to 1,000 times the diameter of our sun.

Since Orion is a prominent feature of the sky, it is, logically enough, used as a guidepost to other celestial sights. For example, if you extend the line of Orion's belt down toward the horizon (again, using our 8pm benchmark for Saipan) you'll come to Sirius, the brightest star in the entire night sky. Sirius itself isn't all that remarkable. It's bright because it's very close at 8.6 light-years.

Saipan actually gets a bonus here, which our friends to the north in Beijing, Tokyo, and Seoul have probably never seen from home: Canopus, the second-brightest star in the night sky, which is roughly between Sirius and due south. Canopus is 309 light-years distant.

In summary, then, Saipan offers an array of noteworthy stars

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



in Orion's sector of the sky: Betelgeuse, the red supergiant; Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka, the blue supergiants of Orion's belt; Rigel, which is also a blue supergiant; Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky; and Canopus, the second-brightest star in the night sky.

There's far more to Orion's neighborhood, but I'm going to change course so I can address readers who have some engagement in navigation. Saipan, after all, has hosted its share of tropical adventurers. One useful fact about Orion is that Mintaka pretty much sits smack-dab on top of the celestial horizon. Another useful fact is that Orion's sword, which, of course, hangs down from the belt, hangs toward celestial due south. With these two facts in mind, Orion can really help you get your bearings if you're in the middle of nowhere.

Stepping back to the most general of perspectives, the arm of the galaxy on which Earth's solar system resides is called the Orion Spur. It's also called the Orion Arm. Either way, Orion is a very big deal and a very big benchmark.

So enjoy the view!

Navigating troubled waters

We may be hoping to achieve financial sufficiency at some point in the near future, what with a double whammy: storm and investment exit.

It's good to employ utopia—the dream that we could make it—but must equally prepare for dystopia—the reality check that it could be completely the opposite.

Be that as it may, two critical decisions were made recently that would present major hurdles attaining economic stride or expansion here in the near or long-term:

1. China prohibiting money from leaving the country, therefore no new investments here or anywhere.
2. Nippon investments heading home in recent past.

One stops investment funds, the other takes its luggage and heads to airplanes. I tried to analyze it but it hails from a different level of complexity beyond our control. It's a sovereign issue altogether.

What is it that we've lost or trashed with ignorance and arrogance with friends from near and far?

The departure of Nippon investment of about \$7 billion is an issue unto itself that started in recent years. The *sayonara* seems permanent. How do we recover over \$7 billion in financial loss? Any realistic idea how this could be done without raising income and other taxes?

It means revenue generation has started heading south. There would be less for basic needs and whatever is left in the coffers must be spent with critical care. This impending setback ought to rein in reality check among politicians, right?

Exit: With projection that Japan would continue its economic growth throughout the course of the year, interesting the sale of all its hotels in Guam and the NMI. Has anyone among our men of wisdom noticed this? Has anyone responsibly sought answers why the exit of investments?

Troubling if we allow negligence to rule the day when we know that maintenance of private industry growth is the salvation to paying for basic needs here. Or have Da Boysis found another abundant source to fill this void?

The combined economic contraction would clobber financial freedom to zero sum. Must make do with what's left in the coffers. There won't be that much to play around with, is there?

Have we responsibly assessed its implications to figure out approximate loss in terms of dollar figure? Or do we treat it with inconsequence like we do most other vital issues? Is there an epidemic of intellectual menopause here?

must deal with the fate of 15,000 employees stuck in poverty income level. It boils down to the quality of family life for these employees. Is poverty income sufficient to enable employees to enjoy the benefits of growth and development here?

It's a tough issue given that it requires a strong and healthy economy to allow all boats in the harbor to float together, so to speak. With some 15,000 employees earning poverty income, it's a glaring tale that the local economy is woefully unhealthy, true? Otherwise, it would allow the 15,000 folks to earn better wages and salaries at this point in time, true? Is it the case now?

The federal poverty income guideline is wages and salaries between \$15K and \$42K per year. The number of people in the family determines its strength. It is sheer hardship, no matter how you twist it.

The level and sufficiency of income is determined by the strength of the economy. Take a look at your income to define this issue right here and now. It isn't a healthy economy; otherwise you'd be making more, right? This setback shifts responsibility to the elected elite for real answers. Anybody home? I mean the lights are on all night and all day!

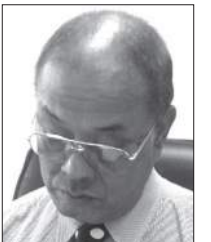
The obvious dilemma: cost of living keeps going up while employees keep their fingers crossed that something for the better descends into their insufficient family income. Are Da Boysis still snoozing on the wheels?

If we've pushed for paradigms that have failed, why would we repeat the same ill-fated dispositions? Is it lodged in the per-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



petual notion that this is the government and there's time and resources to waste before things get any better? When would this happen? Timeline?

■■■

Others: I read an OpEd that discusses how national Democrats wanted to eliminate God from their oath of office and breakfast prayer. But there's the historic irony of our country being founded on Judeo-Christian principles, isn't it? Why terminate it now?

■■■






National Democrats also have legislation that would allow what's known as "elective abortion" where the doctor and mom dispose the fate of the baby up to the moment and immediately after birth. Isn't that infanticide? Who gave the mom the right to rule on the fate of the life of a child?



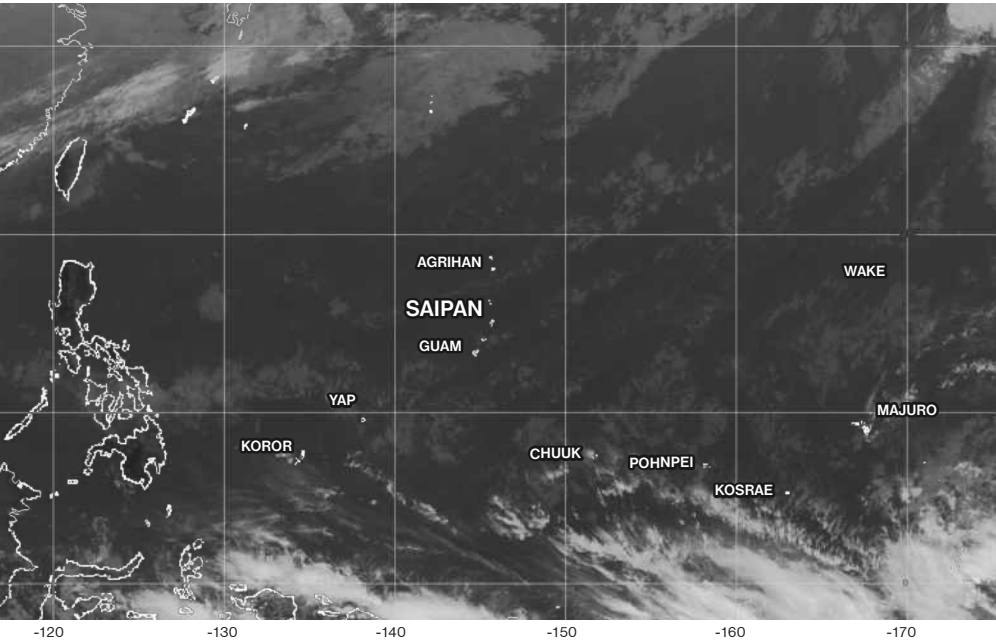
Life: Amidst the huge economic contraction, the elected elite

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:29 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 18 to 23 knots just off the surface which then increase to between 22 and 27 knots through the lowest 10 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal a moderate north-northwest swell of around 3 feet plus trade-wind swell and waves from a little north of east, with a total of 8 to 10 feet between the two components.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Showers	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Showers	84° / 79°	
Kosrae	Showers	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	75° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 16°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 66°	
London	Sunny	57° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Rain	62° / 52°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 69°	
New York	Showers	58° / 35°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 37°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	55° / 32°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 30°	
Rome	Sunny	63° / 36°	
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 46°	
San Francisco	Showers	52° / 46°	
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 19°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 39°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:48 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.56	
9:28 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21	
2:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	
10:34 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:06 AM	1:49 PM
Saturday	-	3:06 AM	2:47 PM
Sunday	-	4:07 AM	3:49 PM
Monday	-	5:08 AM	4:54 PM
Tuesday	-	6:06 AM	6:00 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
				OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily


TOYOTA

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Compromise with feds sought on cockfighting ban, labor

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee hopes that a unified stand among elected officials of the CNMI and Guam would convince the federal government to compromise on issues relating to cockfighting and the H-2B workers visa program.

Rep. L.J. Castro (R-Saipan) met with members of the 35th Guam Legislature—Speaker Tina Muna-Barnes and Sens. Amanda L. Shelton and Joe S. San Agustin—in late January to talk about mutual concerns.

“We had the chance to meet with [Guam lawmakers] in regards to coming up with a position on the ban on the H-2B workers [from the Philippines] as well as [Public Law 115-334], which include a cockfighting ban on territories,” said Castro.

P.L. 115-334 or the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, signed into law by President Donald Trump in December last year, bans cockfighting in all U.S. jurisdictions, including U.S. territories. Previous

farm bills excluded U.S. territories from the ban.

“I know [P.L. 115-334] is an issue on both the municipal and central government side throughout the Marianas—CNMI and Guam. We are addressing that and I have heard from [cockfighting] practitioners,” said Castro. “Whether be it through delegation legislation or through a resolution, we’re looking at those avenues. It is something that being the [committee] chair that I’m actively keeping an eye on.”

He said House Speaker B.J. Attao and some members of the CNMI Legislature are also keeping an eye on the issue.

He said that it is not only the CNMI and Guam but also Puerto Rico that are hoping to be exempted from the ban. “They must look at it from our standpoint, not just the CNMI and Guam but as far as Puerto Rico that also have a very active stance against it.”

“It was, I guess, a decision that we were not really consulted about. They kind of overlook, not only the cultural standpoint but also the economic side of it. Just like

Puerto Rico delegate seeks to roll back cockfighting ban

Puerto Rico’s delegate to Congress wants to roll back a law passed last year that banned cockfighting on the island and in other United States territories.

Del. Jennifer González-Colón (R), along with the nonvoting delegates of the other four inhabited territories, introduced legislation Wednesday that would repeal a section of last year’s farm bill that banned the widely condemned practice of pitting chickens against each other for gambling.

“This ban is an overreach from Congress to the U.S. territories, precisely because it is contrary to Congress’s intent in enacting the original Animal Welfare Act that was approved in 1976, which includes all the

U.S. territories in the definition of states,” González-Colón told reporters Wednesday at a news conference, flanked by Puerto Rico territorial lawmakers and cockfighting industry representatives.

“This prohibition on cockfighting will likely force the highly regulated industry in Puerto Rico to become an underground industry, without the safeguards or the oversight of the local government, bringing cockfights back to our streets, absent of local control or government oversight, resulting in risks that could, overall, hurt the community health or public safety,” she said.

Cockfighting employs about 27,000 people in Puerto Rico directly or indirectly,

and generates about \$18 million annually in economic activity, González-Colón said.

Federal law leaves cockfighting regulation in states mostly up to state governments, but all 50 have banned the practice.

Up until last year, territories were also allowed to regulate cockfighting. But the Agriculture Improvement Act banned it, along with dogfighting, in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Animal rights activists cheered the prohibition.

“The amendment will protect animals from cruelty, communities from associated criminal activity, and the public from disease transmission

in the food supply,” the Humane Society of the United States said after the bill’s Senate passage.

But González-Colón said that in Puerto Rico, the provision is devastating, particularly with the economy so fragile after 2017’s Hurricane Maria.

“This will have a direct impact on the economy of the island if you are prohibiting the cockfighting industry,” she said.

“This issue never received a congressional hearing. This issue never received a mark-up discussion or any other consideration appropriate to regulate this industry.”

Both chambers of Puerto Rico’s legislature endorsed repealing the cockfighting ban. (<https://thehill.com>)

Stellar Marianas hosts open house, sets deadline

Summer is going to see a new queen crowned for the Northern Marianas and Stellar Marianas is already in high gear preparing for the event.

The volunteer organization recently hosted an open house at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant in Garapan—an informal way to share what is coming up for the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant that is scheduled for June and to meet potential contestants.

Miss Marianas 2018 Celine Cabrera was on hand, along with Miss Marianas 2015 Jian Joyner, as well as members and officers of Stellar Marianas who shared stories and experiences of this life-changing opportunity.

Five applications have been received so far and Stellar Marianas is setting a deadline for Feb. 28 for all applications to be turned in. This year’s set of prizes promises to be one of the largest as Stellar Marianas celebrates its 14th anniversary.

“We have an exciting lineup of events and activities for our 2019 Miss Marianas contestants and would like to get started training and preparing as soon as we can,” said PR and Community Events director Monique Sablan.

Applications are available at the Pena House Boutique in Chalan Kanoa and is open to 18-26 year old females, U.S. citizen, not married, and of good character to represent the Northern Marianas to the world.

At the open house, Stellar

2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera shares her experiences with potential contestants for the 2019 Miss Marianas Pageant at Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant.

STELLAR MARIANAS

Marianas focused on all the community events attended or hosted by the titleholders and contestants to emphasize that it is not only about the pageant experience but also to be an active community platform for young women to share what matters to them.

Cabrera shared her experiences as queen, pointing out that time flies when you are having fun.

“I can’t believe it has been a year already. I was just looking back at our photos as contestants and I feel I have become such a stronger, confident and more articulate person because of this wonderful journey,” said Cabrera, who has competed in the 2018 Miss International pageant in Tokyo, and traveled to Japan, China, Korea, U.S., Tinian and soon, Rota as queen.

The 2019 Miss Marianas pageant offers an amazing, transformative experience and this year is no different, with its theme of Celestial, honoring the CNMI’s ancient cultural tradition of sea voyaging and navigation.

For more information, email stellarqueens@gmail.com or send a message via www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas. (PR)



Stellar Marianas PR and Community Events director Monique Sablan talks to the potential candidates at a recent Open House at Bubba Gump Shrimp Restaurant in Garapan, while 2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner and Beauty & Etiquette directors Jacky Santos and Jaky Fujihira look on.

STELLAR MARIANAS

Red Cross Walkathon on April 13

The 33rd Red Cross Walkathon of the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter will take place on April 13 near the Guma Sakman building in Susupe. The walk will feature a 10K, 5K and 2K course along the Beach Road Pathway.

There will be T-shirts, refreshments, games, and a community fair. Mark your calendar and help support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission here in the CNMI.

The walkathon will also be held on the same day on Rota and Tinian.

For more information about how to participate, volunteer or donate, call the Red Cross office at 234-3459. (PR)

World

N. Korea exploring sanctions-proof energy technologies

NAMPO, North Korea (AP)—Power-strapped North Korea is exploring two ambitious alternative energy sources—tidal power and coal-based synthetic fuels—that could greatly improve living standards and reduce its reliance on oil imports and vulnerability to sanctions.

Finding a lasting energy source that isn't vulnerable to sanctions has long been a top priority for North Korean officials. Leader Kim Jong Un used his New Year's address last month to call on the country to "radically increase the production of electricity" and singled out the coal-mining industry as a "primary front in developing the self-supporting economy." For the longer-term, he stressed the importance of atomic, wind and tidal power.

Since further development of atomic energy is unlikely anytime soon, the power-scarce country is developing technology to "gasify" coal into substitute motor fuels. It also is looking into using huge sea barriers with electricity-generating turbines to harness the power of the ocean's tides.

Coal and hydropower are North Korea's main energy resources. The North imports nearly all of its oil and petroleum products from China. Solar panels are visible just about everywhere, from urban balconies to rural farm buildings and military installations. Wind remains a very minor energy source.

The North's renewed focus on oil alternatives underscores what some foreign observers believe are two of its long-term best bets.

Kim's late father, Kim Jong Il, tried to get international support for developing nuclear power in the 1990s before the North ultimately opted instead for nuclear weapons. That brought some of the most intense sanctions ever applied by the United Nations against the country, making its energy situation even more precarious.

But coal is something North Korea has in abundance.

It's used to supply thermal power plants and factories, to heat homes and to make

fertilizer and even a kind of cloth, called Vinyon. Slow-running, smoke-belching trucks that use a gasification process with firewood are common in the North Korean countryside. Coal isn't generally seen as a good oil-product substitute because converting it to a liquid form is inefficient and expensive—coal gasification was last used on a large scale in Nazi Germany to keep its cars and trucks moving.

Given North Korea's limited options, it's a technology that appears to be paying off.

The output from just one gasifier unit reportedly destined for the North Sunchon Chemical Plant, north of Pyongyang, could yield synthetic fuel amounting to about 10 percent of the North's recent petroleum supply, according to a recent study for the Nautilus Institute by David von Hippel and Peter Hayes, two of the foremost experts on the issue. The study cited as one of its sources a Wall Street Journal report from December that tracked the unit to a Chinese exporter.

The facility is believed to be a center of "C-1" technology, which uses coal to make a kind of gas used to produce synthetic fuels, industrial chemicals and fertilizers.

Now that China has reduced its coal imports from the North in line with the sanc-

tions, there's more available for gasification.

"The project appears to provide a significant benefit to the DPRK, in terms of supplying fuels to compensate for petroleum product imports that run afoul of United Nations Security Council sanctions passed in the last two years, although the project will not completely replace all lost imports on its own," they wrote in the report.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North's interest in tidal energy also reflects a practical desire to exploit existing resources.

WORLD BRIEFS

Journalist and Duterte critic posts bail after libel arrest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The award-winning head of a Philippine online news site that has aggressively covered President Rodrigo Duterte's administration has been freed on bail after her arrest in a libel case. National Bureau of Investigation agents served the warrant against Maria Ressa late Wednesday afternoon and escorted her from the Rappler Inc. office to NBI headquarters, where she stayed overnight. Duterte's government denied it and said the arrest was a normal step in response to a criminal complaint. "What we're seeing is death by a thousand cuts of our democracy," Ressa told reporters after posting bail in a Manila court. Rappler's 2012 article included allegations that a businessman was linked to drugs, human trafficking and a murder case, citing an unspecified intelligence report. He has denied the allegations and welcomed the indictment.

Japanese same-sex couples sue for equal marital rights

TOKYO (AP)—Thirteen gay couples filed Japan's first lawsuit challenging the country's rejection of same-sex marriage Thursday, arguing the denial violates their constitutional right to equality. Six couples holding banners saying "Marriage For All Japan" walked into Tokyo District Court to file their cases against the government, with similar cases filed by three couples in Osaka, one

couple in Nagoya and three couples in Sapporo. Plaintiff Kenji Aiba, standing next to his partner Ken Kozumi, told reporters he would "fight this war together with sexual minorities all around Japan." Aiba and Kozumi have held onto a marriage certificate they signed at their wedding party in 2013, anticipating Japan would emulate other advanced nations and legalize same-sex unions.

NATO chief says allies keen to avoid arms race with Russia

BRUSSELS (AP)—Taking aim at Russia, NATO's civilian chief said Wednesday the alliance is studying a range of options to counter Moscow's alleged missile treaty violations, and America's top diplomat accused the Russians of having "grand designs" to dominate Europe. In remarks at the outset of a NATO defense ministers meeting, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the military alliance is considering ways to counter Russian missiles without sparking an arms race. He called the missiles "a significant risk" to Europe. In Poland, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Moscow's efforts to divide the European Union and NATO and disrupt western democracies must be countered through boosting NATO's presence. "Russia has grand designs of dominating Europe and reasserting its influence on the world stage. Vladimir Putin seeks to splinter the NATO alliance, weaken the United States and disrupt Western democracies," he said.

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

The Mideast conference in Poland that started Wednesday offers Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu an opportunity to flaunt in public what he has long boasted about happening behind the scenes — his country's improved relations with some Gulf Arab nations.

Several Gulf dignitaries are expected to attend in a potential show of force against uninvited Iran. But the Palestinians are urging a boycott of the conference, and it remains to be seen whether Arab officials will make any public overtures to Netanyahu without a major concession to the Palestinian cause, which still animates the

Arab public.

The United States and Poland are sponsoring the conference in Warsaw, which they say is aimed at promoting peace and security in Mideast but appears to be mainly focused on isolating Iran.

Iran has denounced the gathering as an American anti-Iran "circus." Russia has said it will not attend, and the European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, is also skipping the event.

For the Trump administration, it is a high-profile occasion to gather all its Middle East allies. For Poland, it offers a chance to strengthen ties with Washington as it seeks greater protection from Russia.



NOTICE OF APPLICATION DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



As of February 15, 2019 NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Crew Boats, Inc.	01/30/2019 SPI-2019-X-013	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Approved 02/04/2019*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Off The Wall

Woman finds tiger in house

HOUSTON (AP)—A woman who called Houston's non-emergency dispatch line after discovering a tiger inside a cage at an abandoned home told the shocked dispatcher: "I'm not lying."

The Houston Chronicle obtained a recording of the call after animal rescue workers found the well-fed animal resting on a bed of hay Monday inside a cage they said could be easily opened.

Police say a group of people looking for a place to smoke marijuana happened across the tiger on Monday. The woman told the dispatcher: "It's pretty big." Authorities say the animal weighed 350 pounds (159 kilograms).

Investigators have leads into who owned the tiger but say it may not be the person



AP
In this Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 photo, a tiger that was found in a Southeast Houston residence awaits transport to a rescue facility at the BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions building in Houston.

who owns the property.

The tiger has been moved to an animal sanctuary in Texas.

The tiger was nicknamed "Tyson" after the movie "The Hangover."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

House call turns into horse call for police in Minnesota

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, Minn. (AP) — Authorities say a suburban Minneapolis resident reported a strange intruder in her basement. It was a horse. Inver Grove Heights police arrived at the woman's home late Friday night to find a pale-colored horse walking through various rooms as officers watched through windows from the outside. Police Sgt. Adam Wiederhoeft says the investigation is ongoing and it isn't clear how the horse got into the house, but that the animal's owner came by to remove it. A message on the police department's Facebook page read: "No horses or officers were hurt in this incident and the horse was safely returned to the corral!"

Man who dumped tuna in woods pleads guilty, gets probation

PEABODY, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts man authorities say caught a tuna out of season and then dumped the headless, 400-pound carcass in the woods has been placed on probation after pleading guilty to related charges. The Salem News reports that Harold Wentworth, of Gloucester, pleaded guilty on Monday to littering from a vehicle, improper disposal of waste and driving after license suspension. He was sentenced to a year of probation and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. During the hearing, Wentworth's attorney disclosed that federal fisheries regulators have already fined his client \$15,000. The bluefin tuna worth an estimated \$10,000 was found in the

woods of Gloucester in October 2017. A tow truck was needed to haul it out of the trees. Prosecutors say as a commercial fisherman, Wentworth knew the rules.

Purse lost in school in the 1950s to be reunited with owner

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A purse containing a prom invitation, photos and other items from 1950s America will be returned to its now 82-year-old owner after workers found it while demolishing part of an Indiana high school. Martha Everett lost the black stitched purse more than six decades ago. Workers found it in January behind science classroom cabinets in the old Jeffersonville High School, where Everett was a senior in 1955. Greater Clark County Schools spokeswoman Erin Bojorquez says the district was able to track Everett "thanks to the power of social media" after one of her relatives saw a Facebook post about the purse. The district plans to mail the purse to Everett's home in Florida. The News and Tribune reports that its contents included a wallet, a letter inviting her to the prom, lipstick, photos and Juicy Fruit gum wrappers.

Russia teen refits car, gets shoutout from Elon Musk

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian teenager has refitted his car to drive it backward, and got a shoutout from Tesla's CEO Elon Musk. But this didn't stop the police from stripping him of the car registration. The 18-year-old was

stopped earlier this week driving the battered Lada backward. The teenager showed in a video posted on social media that he had refitted the car, removing what was underneath the hood to where the trunk normally is, and reversed the driver's seat. The video, posted on Twitter by the Russian television station NTV, got a shoutout Monday from Musk's verified account who said, in Russian, that it was "awesome." Local police, however, were not impressed and fined the teenager for driving backward, illegal refitting the car and driving without insurance.

Idaho looks into loud cannon fire at governor's inauguration

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho National Guard's commanding officer says he will look into 19 startlingly loud ceremonial canon blasts that were part of Gov. Brad Little's inauguration. The canon fire on Jan. 4 set off car alarms in downtown Boise and scattered Canada geese into the air as smoke billowed around soldiers. Some of the several thousand people attending flinched in surprise. Republican Sen. Chuck Winder of Boise asked Friday during a committee meeting of state lawmakers why the canon blasts seemed louder than normal. Idaho Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael J. Garshak says he'll look into why the blasts were so loud. Garshak is responsible for maintaining the Idaho National Guard's combat readiness as combat reserve for the Army and Airforce.

Science & Technology

Fish pass mirror test, but does this mean they are self-aware?

NEW YORK (AP)—Scientists report that a fish can pass a standard test of recognizing itself in a mirror—and they raise a question about what that means.

Does this decades-old test, designed to show self-awareness in animals, really do that?

Since the mirror test was introduced in 1970, scientists have found that relatively few animals can pass it. Most humans can by age 18 to 24 months, and so can chimps and orangutans, says the test's inventor, evolutionary psychologist Gordon Gallup Jr. of Albany College in New York.

Outside of ape species, many researchers say there's also good evidence for passing the test in bottlenose dolphins, Asian elephants and European magpies, although Gallup is skeptical of those results.

The test exposes animals to a mirror and looks for reactions that indicate some recognition of themselves. For example, do the animals do unusual things to see if the image copies them? Do they appear to use the mirror to explore their own bodies? And if researchers mark an animal in a place the creature can observe only in the

mirror, does the animal try to remove it?

Passing the test suggests an animal can "become the object of its own attention," and if it does, it should be able to use its own experience to infer what others know, want or intend to do, said Gallup, who did not participate in the fish study.

The new paper released Thursday by PLOS Biology subjected up to 10 fish to various parts of the test.

Alex Jordan, who's at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Konstanz, Germany, and colleagues observed a reef-dwelling species called the cleaner wrasse doing odd behaviors like swimming upside-down by the mirror. When four fish were injected with a tag that left a visible brown mark under their throats, three scraped that part of their bodies against a rock or the sandy bottom of the tank, as if trying to remove it.

In all, the researchers concluded that the fish had passed the test.

But Jordan says his fish could have succeeded without possessing true self-awareness.

They may have matched the reflection to parts of

their own bodies, but he said that less-sophisticated mental talent doesn't require self-awareness, which includes talents like distinguishing their own bodies from those of other fish or recognizing their own territory or possessions. Nor does it imply self-consciousness, which means thinking about oneself and one's own behavior in relation to how others act, he said in an email.

Gallup said he believes the experimental procedure was flawed, so the fish can't really be said to have passed the test.

Frans de Waal, an expert on ape and monkey behavior at Emory University's Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Atlanta, said he found the fish results to be inconclusive.

In a journal commentary, de Waal also said it's better to think of different animals having varying degrees of self-awareness, rather than considering it an all-or-nothing trait possessed by just a few species.

"To explore self-awareness further we should stop looking at responses to the mirror as the litmus test" and turn to other means of evaluation, he said.

Google to invest \$13 billion in new US offices, data centers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google plans to invest more than \$13 billion this year on new and expanded data centers and offices across the U.S.

CEO Sundar Pichai announced the news in a blog post Wednesday, emphasizing the company's growth outside its Mountain View, California, home and across the Midwest and South.

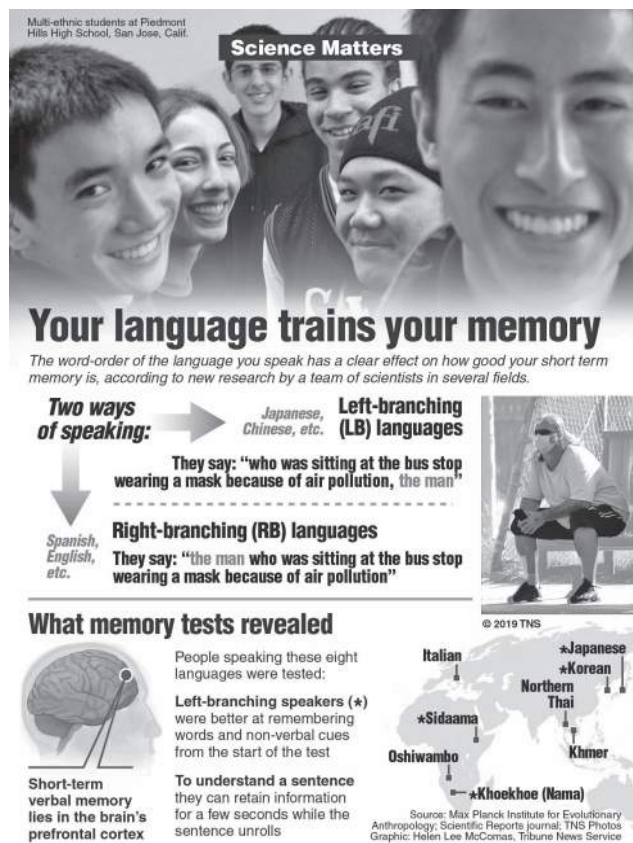
"2019 marks the second year in a row we'll be growing faster outside of the (San Francisco) Bay Area than in it," he wrote.

Google will build new data centers in Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia. Pichai estimated the construction of the new centers will employ 10,000 workers.

It makes good political sense for Google to highlight its expansions outside coastal cities, said CFRA Research analyst Scott Kessler. U.S. legislators have paid increasing attention to Google and

other big tech companies in the past year, and are considering passing privacy laws to regulate the companies'

reach. Investing more widely across the U.S. could help it curry favor with federal politicians and officials, he said.



Life & Style

Gucci creative head breaks silence over 'blackface' sweater

NEW YORK (AP)—Gucci's creative director broke his silence Tuesday over an \$890 sweater that resembled black-

face, saying racism was never his intention.

Alessandro Michele, a design force at the Italian fashion

Cosby vows no remorse, even if he sits in prison 10 years

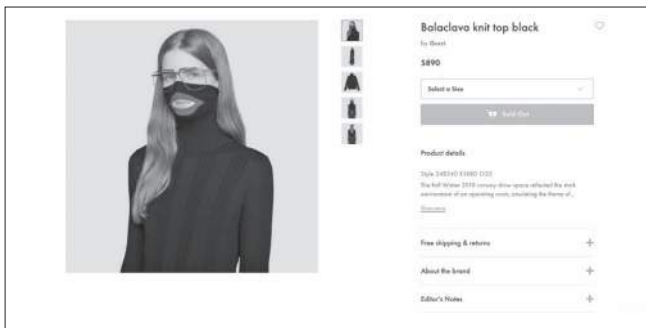
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby says he "will never have remorse" for the sexual encounter that sent him to prison because he considers his conviction the work of "a low-life district attorney and a corrupt judge."

Cosby's stance could leave him to serve the high end of a three- to 10-year prison term since sex offenders often must show remorse to win parole.

Spokesman Andrew Wyatt

says Cosby is prepared to stay in prison rather than apologize for a 2004 encounter he considers consensual.

Cosby in a statement calls himself a political prisoner in keeping with Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. Spokesman Andrew Wyatt says the legally blind, 81-year-old actor dictated the statement for NBC-TV to his wife Camille during a phone call Tuesday night from a suburban Philadelphia prison.



A screenshot taken on Thursday Feb. 7, 2019 from an online fashion outlet showing a Gucci turtleneck black wool balaclava sweater for sale, that they recently pulled from its online and physical stores.

considered it a "fundamental value to be fully upheld, respected and at the forefront of every decision we make."

The balaclava-style sweater that covered the nose above the cutout was ridiculed on social media as insensitive and racist. It emerged as attention in the U.S. was focused on old photos showing politicians with their faces blackened.

Other fashion brands have made similar missteps.

In December, Prada said it

was no longer selling a line of accessories that featured a character with brown skin and exaggerated red lips after complaints they resembled blackface.

Michele's internal letter was reported by the site Fashionista.com and Women's Wear Daily.

Marco Bizzarri, Gucci's president and CEO, told WWD, "The lack of knowledge of diversity and the consequent understanding are not at the level we expected, despite all the efforts we did inside the company in the last four years."

The company is now "evaluating all the processes" to ensure "the right level of awareness and visibility," he said.

Report: 7 women claim singer Ryan Adams was inappropriate

NEW YORK

(AP)—A New York Times report says seven women have claimed singer-songwriter Ryan Adams offered to help them with their music careers but then turned things sexual, and he sometimes became emotional and verbally abusive.



Adams

In the story published Wednesday, a 20-year-old female musician said Adams, 44, had inappropriate conversations with her while she was 15 and 16. Identified by her middle name Ava, she said that Adams exposed himself

during a video call.

Adams' ex-wife, actress and singer Mandy Moore, said Adams was psychologically abusive toward her throughout their marriage. Their divorce was official in 2016.

The Times said the accounts have been corroborated by family members or friends who were present at the time. Adams' lawyer denied the claims to the Times.

After the article was published, Adams tweeted Wednesday that "I am not a perfect man and I have made many mistakes."

Donald Glover gets 5 nominations for NAACP Image Awards

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Coming off a big night at the Grammys, Donald Glover and his alter-ego Childish Gambino were nominated Wednesday for five NAACP Image Awards.

Glover is nominated for his acting and directing on "Atlanta." The FX show itself is nominated for best comedy series. On the music side, Childish Gambino is nominated for top male per-

former, and his song "This Is America" is nominated for best video and song. Glover won four Grammys including record and song of the year on Sunday night.

The nominees were announced Wednesday at the Television Critics Association winter meeting by "Black Panther" actor Winston Duke and "Dear White People" actress Logan Browning, both of whom learned as they made

the announcements that they were among the nominees. Browning teared up after seeing her name.

"Black Panther" was nominated for 14 awards, with star Chadwick Boseman and director Ryan Coogler nominated for entertainer of the year along with Beyonce, LeBron James and Regina King.

The film was also nominated for best motion picture

along with "BlacKkKlansman," "Crazy Rich Asians," "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "The Hate U Give."

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters will receive the NAACP Chairman's Award for public service.

The 50th NAACP Image Awards honoring entertainers and writers of color will be held March 30 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood and aired live on TV One.

"Empire" actor expresses anger over attack, public's doubt

CHICAGO (AP) — Actor Jussie Smollett says he's "pissed off" that some have doubted his claims about being attacked outside his Chicago apartment last month.

The actor who stars in the

Fox drama "Empire" made the comments during an interview with ABC News that's set to air Thursday on "Good Morning America." A preview clip from the interview was posted online Wednesday.

Smollett says he was attacked Jan. 29 by two masked men who shouted racial and homophobic slurs at him. Chicago police have made no arrests and said they have not found surveillance video that

shows the attack.

The 36-year-old Smollett, who is black and openly gay, tells ABC News that he wonders how people could doubt him, adding that what he reported was the truth.

Readers advocate respect for opposing viewpoints

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding "Open-Minded in the South" (Nov. 24), the Christian woman who's a supporter of the LGBTQ community. She's concerned about her boyfriend's mother's inability to see her viewpoint and the effect it would have on future kids. I experienced something nearly identical. My boyfriend's grandfather is an ordained pastor, and they raised their kids in a conservative home. After a few conversations with them about LGBTQ people and other issues, we received a six-page letter detailing the "sins" we were committing.

Fast-forward 20 years: I get along with my in-laws fabulously. In fact, the grandfather has said I'm his favorite! We don't agree on pretty much anything politically, but I do still voice my opinion if the family says something I don't agree with.

My husband and I have two kids who often hear the in-laws say some judgmental things, and it's a great segue to a conversation with my kids afterward. They understand that not everyone is going to have the same beliefs, and even though we don't agree with the in-laws on these issues, we love them dearly. It definitely isn't a reason to end a good relationship.

As to "Open-Minded's" boyfriend not being up for the argument with his mom, he could be like my husband who HAS had conversations with them to no avail and realizes it's futile.

BEEN THERE AND STILL THERE

DEAR BEEN THERE: My readers used "Open-Minded's" letter as an opportunity to have a forum about re-

spect, love and civility. I found their comments both valid and refreshing. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: It is interesting that open-minded people are often open-minded only if you agree with them and are otherwise completely dogmatic. Neither party will ever convince the other that they are wrong. The solution: Don't talk about the problem issue.

We have a relative who holds office in a political party opposite to ours. We have a tacit agreement to simply never talk politics, and we get along great. Life is short, and there's nothing more important than family and friends. Agree to disagree!

CALM IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: When people have an opposing point of view, it doesn't mean they hate you or are ignorant. Our culture is increasingly unable to engage in reasoned dialogue. Instead, people resort to shouting down reasonable thought and civil debate. My wife and I disagree over substantive issues, but we cope. Our society needs to work toward a renewal of civility.

NO HATE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: BOTH women are entitled to their beliefs and opinions. It's commendable that they discussed their differences. Now the question is, "How do I respond to someone important in my life with whom I disagree?" The answer is RESPECT. Rather than demean each other, the women should choose to find some solid ground on which to build a relationship.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



To advise "Open-Minded" to consider leaving her boyfriend because of his mother's beliefs shocked me. In my family there is an array of different views. We all know where we stand and steer clear of the bombshells. We have chosen to love each other, accept each other as is and be as close as we can despite our differences. It takes some work, but it's worth it. We have even been able to joke with one another in a good-natured way. THAT is love and respect at its best, and more of what our world could use today.

HAPPY IN KANSAS

DEAR READERS: I confess I wholeheartedly agree.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



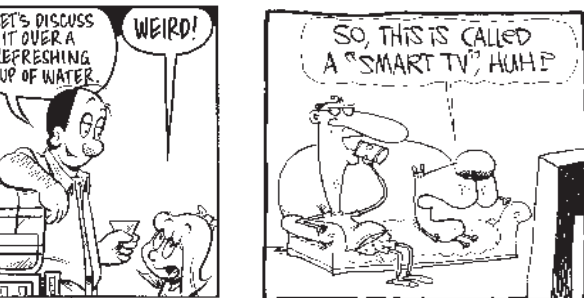
Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sparkle

6 Word of denial

9 Early hrs.

12 — Carta

13 Japanese sash

14 Like sashimi

15 Sur-rounded by

16 Italian city where Marconi was born

18 Mexican entree

20 Optimistic

21 Honey holder

23 Jurist

24 De Mille of dance

25 Nepal's continent

27 Bakery lure

29 Italian port city

31 Italian city of canals

35 Soft leather

37 Pack cargo

38 Grinding tooth

41 Genetic letters

43 Storm center

44 Oil

45 Pippa, to Kate Middleton

47 Italian city on the Adriatic

49 October birth-stones

52 Crone

53 — de deux

54 "— Be" (The Beatles)

55 "Quiet!"

56 Illustrations

57 Yorkshire city

DOWN

1 "Today" rival, briefly

2 Felon's flight

3 Self-indulgent "journey"

4 — Karenina"

5 Igne-ous rock source

6 More altruistic

7 Bas-son's skin

8 Up to gas

9 Inert

10 Parson's home

11 Con-vinces

17 Church key-boards

19 Humiliate

21 Painter Vermeer

22 Simile part

24 Soul, to Sartre

26 — Lorraine

28 Pizza cookers

30 Where Lux. is

32 State repeat-edly

33 Coquet-ish

34 Ram's mate

36 Most desert-like

38 Fluttry insects

39 Media mogul Winfrey

40 Janet of "Psycho"

42 Coral reef

45 Flag feature

46 Duel tool

48 Hot tub

50 Cover

51 Rds.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Riley, 33; Matt Groening, 65; Melissa Manchester, 68; Jane Seymour, 68.

Happy Birthday: A personal change should be on your itinerary this year. How you handle your responsibilities and determine what's important will make the difference between success and failure. If you are too accommodating and put others first, you will only have yourself to blame if you fall short of your expectations. Set boundaries and goals. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 29, 34, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Share your thoughts and opinions with someone you share personal plans with, and you will come up with solutions that will allow you both to get a little of what you want moving forward. Team effort is favored. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do something nice for someone, and you will get something very special in return. Life is about give-and-take and using what's available, along with your skills, to make your community a better place. Progress can be made. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look at your options and take a leap forward. Change will help you weed out what is no longer worth hanging on to. Recognizing how to use what you have and making the most out of what you've got will pay off. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts and feelings to come up with a plan that will enhance your life personally or professionally. Be creative and offer sugges-

tions that are forward-thinking and easy to incorporate into your daily routine. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get angry over the changes others make. Look at your own life and make adjustments that will improve your situation. It's important to move with the times and to accept the inevitable if you want to make progress. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in something you believe in, and you will bring about positive change. Your insight and ability to get things done will make others take note and recognize your value. Love and romance should not be put on the back burner. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems at home should be handled with care. You may not agree with someone, but you cannot interfere if you want to keep the peace. Be a witness to, not a participant in, other people's poor judgment. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live life your way. Incorporate travel, socializing and sharing with people who fuel your imagination and inspire you to pursue the things in life that bring you the most joy. Love and romance will lead to positive change. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep a close watch on anyone who promises too much or tends to exaggerate. Focus on yourself and the personal gains you can make. Choose to do something that will improve your health and help build strength and stamina. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Move things around and clear a space suitable for a project you want to pursue. You'll feel good about the changes you make and the peace of mind you gain from the endeavors you take on. Share with someone you love. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't trust others to have your back. You have to do for yourself if you want to get ahead. Concentrate on what you do best, and it will pay off. Growth is in sight, and as a result, so is opportunity. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Excess is the enemy. If you want to get ahead and avoid having problems at work or at home, you have to walk away from temptation, live within your means and avoid situations that can make you look bad. **

Birthday Baby: You are playful, exciting and likable. You are creative and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

7 2 9

2 7 1 9

8 5

1 8 3 6

8 6 4 7

6 2 9 7 8 5

4 3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2 5 9 3 4 7 6 8 1

1 6 4 9 8 5 2 7 3

3 7 8 6 1 2 4 5 9

6 2 5 4 9 8 1 3 7

9 8 3 7 6 1 5 4 2

4 1 7 5 2 3 8 9 6

5 3 1 8 7 6 9 2 4

7 9 2 1 5 4 3 6 8

8 4 6 2 3 9 7 1 5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/15
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WINTER COATS Solution: 8 letters

R L C Q U I L T E D U F F E L

E E G N O L P N P L W O B D R

T M Y A S O O I A E O U E E E

S A K A R O N A R I N T L P T

U C O O L W C R K F S E O A S

D U A T A D H H A A M R W C E

E F S R B E O U E E E S U T Y L

L F R E E T X R N H G H W

L S O N L L B T T A M E A E O

I N O D S E S A R R E L R S P

F O D E L B E M R D E L M O U

N O T B D L E E L I P N L O F

W C U L S N O T T U B A C G F

O O O U T E R W E A R E R H E

D C H I L L Y T I S R A V W R

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Anorak, Below, Belted, Buttons, Camel, Cape, Car, Chilly, Cocoon, Cold, Cool, Cuffs, Double-breasted, Down-filled, Duffel, Duster, Elements, Faux, Field, Fur, Garment, Goose, Labels, Layer, Leather, Long, Outdoors, Outer Shell, Outerwear, Parka, Pile, Polar, Polyester, Poncho, Puffer, Quilted, Rain, Snow, Trench, Trend, Tweed, Varsity, Warm, Wool, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Original

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Accountant wanted! Micronesian Legal is hiring our chief financial officer, in our office on Saipan. Annual salary \$45,000 to \$55,000. Contact lee@mlscnet.org.

WHATZIT Solution:
Fair and square

For positive results.

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YOUR
ADVERT
HERE!

Please contact us at
235-6397



is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

- (1) Accountant**
Bachelor's degree in Accounting with three (3) years of accounting experience is required. Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, excellent verbal and written communication skills, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. Experience working in a medical field setting is preferred.
- (1) Midwife (part-time)**
College graduate completion of accredited Midwifery training program approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with five (5) years of work experience in Midwifery. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Midwife in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.
- (2) Radiology Technician**
College degree in Radiology from a school approved by the Health Care Professions Licensing Board, with two (2) years of relevant work experience as a Radiology Technician. Must have the ability to take, review, evaluate and operate X-Ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram and Echocardiogram equipment. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Radiology Technician in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.
- (4) Registered Nurse (RN) – 2 Part time / 2 Full Time**
College graduate degree in Nursing from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of work experience as a nurse or working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must pass US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as an RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

All positions close 5:00pm on **Tuesday, February 19, 2019.**
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Interested applicants may obtain employment application forms from the Front Office of Century Tours, Inc., located on the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe Village, Saipan. Offices are open Sunday-Saturday from 9 AM-6 PM. Applications or resumes may also be submitted via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com or posted online under the JVAS on the CNMI Department of Labor Website. To be considered, resumes or application documents must be submitted not later than **6:00PM on Monday, February 19, 2019.** Drug testing is required prior to employment and background checks will be required prior to employment.

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Broncos to acquire Joe Flacco from Ravens



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Joe Flacco has gone from Denver Broncos tormentor to savior.

The Baltimore Ravens have agreed to trade the veteran quarterback to the Broncos in exchange for a fourth-round pick in this year's NFL draft, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because neither team announced the deal, which was first reported by ESPN. NFL rules prohibit teams from discussing trades until the start of the league year on March 13.

Flacco, the MVP of the 2013 Super Bowl following a miraculous win at top-seeded Denver, became expendable in Baltimore with the emergence of rookie Lamar Jackson, the former Louisville star who led the Ravens into the playoffs after Flacco got hurt.

The Broncos again needed an upgrade at QB after Case Keenum's middling debut in Denver, where a 6-10 finish led general manager John Elway to turn to Vic Fangio, his fourth head coach in six seasons.

Now, he's landed his seventh quarterback since Peyton Manning's tearful retirement following Denver's win in Super Bowl 50.

The others all bombed: draft picks Brock Osweiler, Trevor Siemian, Paxton Lynch and Chad Kelly, trade acquisition Mark Sanchez and Keenum, who threw for 18 TDs and a career-high 15 interceptions last season to go with a career-high 34 sacks.

Flacco has three years and \$63 million left on his contract with a salary of \$18.5 million next season, which is 10th-highest in the NFL at his position. His cap hit of that same amount is 21st among quarterbacks in the league.

The Broncos could trade Keenum and save \$18 million next season. Releasing him would produce \$11 million in savings but cost them \$7 million. Keenum signed a two-year, \$36 million deal in Denver last season with \$25 million guaranteed.

Either way, Elway's deal for Flacco continues his build-but-don't-rebuild ethos. The Broncos have a solid core of young stars and a still superior defense led by Von Miller and Chris Harris Jr. that Elway believes can keep up with the Chargers and Chiefs in the AFC West with the right quarterback leading the way.

They wanted a proven veteran such as Flacco or Nick Foles, another Super Bowl MVP.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco, center, throws to a receiver as Ravens tight end Nick Boyle, front right, keeps Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker T.J. Watt away in the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, in Baltimore. AP

Cardinals coach backs QB amid Kyler Murray rumors

Former Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray has opted to pursue his dream of playing in the NFL instead of on the baseball diamond.

Since he made his announcement Monday, speculation about where he could end up playing has run rampant.

The Arizona Cardinals, who have the No. 1 pick in the 2019 NFL draft, are right in the middle of that speculation, especially after news broke that Murray had hired Erik Burkhardt as his agent, the same agent as Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury.

So, as you might expect, on Tuesday at a news conference introducing the Cardinals' new defensive coaches and staff, Kingsbury was asked about the connection to Murray.

"Josh (Rosen) is our guy," Kingsbury said.

And earlier in the day,

Cardinals team president Michael Bidwill said the team planned on building around its current foundation during an appearance on the "Doug & Wolf Show" on Arizona Sports 98.7 FM.

"Josh is a smart guy, he's been around and he's seen what happens year in and year out," Bidwill said. "There's always a lot of speculation that turns out to not be true. But moving forward, we're going to continue to build this team and build around the foundation that we have."

In Los Angeles, the Chargers will not pick up the option on defensive tackle Corey Liuget's contract.

General manager Tom Telesco told the team website Wednesday he is not closing the door on a possible return even though Liuget will become an unrestricted free agent on March 13.

Liuget would have earned

a base salary of \$4 million and a \$4.5 million roster bonus had he still been on the roster at the start of the new league year.

The eighth-year lineman was the longest-tenured player on the Chargers' defense. He has 237 tackles, 24.0 sacks and five forced fumbles.

Liuget appeared in only six games last season. He missed the first four due to a league suspension for violating the policy on performance-enhancing substances and then suffered a knee injury.

In Florida, place-kicker Josh Lambo has signed a four-year contract extension with the Jacksonville Jaguars, keeping him from hitting free agency next month.

Lambo tweeted a photo of him signing the deal Wednesday on Twitter, adding "Doggone good news!! We'll be in Duval for 4 more years, as I've signed an ex-

tension with the Jags!!"

Lambo set a franchise record for consecutive made field goals last season. He converted 24 straight between Nov. 19, 2017 and Nov. 11, 2018.

In 2018, he made 19 of 21 field goals and became the first in Jaguars history to post consecutive seasons with a field goal rate of at least 90 percent.

Since signing with Jacksonville early in the 2017 season, Lambo has made 38 of 41 field goals. His 92.7 field goal percentage is the highest in team history.

In San Francisco, the 49ers have released offensive lineman Garry Gilliam.

Gilliam spent the past two seasons as a backup swing tackle for the 49ers before the team decided to let him go Wednesday. Gilliam could have made \$5.05 million this season for San Francisco.

won 38-35 in double overtime. Safety Rahim Moore went for the interception instead of the tackle and mistimed his leap, allowing Jones to catch the ball at the 20-yard line and trot into the end zone with the tying touchdown.

Flacco, who turned 34 last month, has played all 11 of his seasons with the Ravens after being selected 18th overall in the 2008 NFL draft. He started immediately as a rookie and was Super Bowl MVP after the 2012 season, guiding the Ravens to a victory over San Francisco in the championship game during a playoff run that included that "Mile High Miracle" in Denver.

Flacco was the starter last season until he injured his right hip in a loss to Pittsburgh on Nov. 4. The Ravens had a bye the following week, and Jackson took over for the still-ailing Flacco on Nov. 18 against Cincinnati. Jackson produced wins over the Bengals, Raiders and Falcons before a 27-24 loss to Kansas City on Dec. 9.

Flacco was healthy enough to return the following week, but coach John Harbaugh said Jackson would be his starter in a matchup against Tampa Bay. Jackson retained the job, going 6-1 to get the Ravens into the postseason before coming up short in a first-round loss to the Los Angeles Chargers.

The Ravens went 106-72 with Flacco as a starter, including the postseason. He is the team career leader in attempts (5,670), completions (3,499), yards (38,245) and touchdowns (212). His 10 playoff victories since 2008 rank second behind Tom Brady among active quarterbacks.

Flacco and Harbaugh arrived in Baltimore together in 2008. They proceeded to reach the playoffs in each of the next five years. Flacco was the first starting quarterback since the 1970 merger to win a playoff game in each of his first five years. Russell Wilson duplicated the feat from 2012-16.

During Baltimore's 2012 run to the Super Bowl, he threw 11 touchdown passes without an interception, his most notable being the 70-yarder to Jones in the double OT win.

The Broncos eventually recovered from that devastating defeat to win a Super Bowl in Manning's final game. But they've gone just 20-28 since then while churning through quarterbacks, coaches and offensive coordinators.

The Broncos lost their final four games last season to finish 6-10, marking their first back-to-back losing seasons since the Nixon Administration.

ius Thomas trade to Houston last fall.

In Flacco, the Broncos are turning to a quarterback who broke their hearts six years ago.

Denver was the top seed after going 13-3 in Manning's first season in Denver and

the Broncos took an 11-game winning streak into their divisional round playoff game against Baltimore.

In the waning seconds of regulation, Flacco connected with Jacoby Jones on a 70-yard touchdown pass to force overtime in a game the Ravens

At 34, Flacco is four years older than Foles but he's been durable, starting all 16 games in nine of his 11 NFL seasons. The other years he started nine and 10 games. Foles has started more than eight games just twice in his seven NFL seasons.

Fangio also knows Flacco well, having served on Baltimore's coaching staff during the quarterback's first two seasons there.

Facilitating the deal for Flacco was the extra fourth-round pick Elway had at his disposal from the Demary-

Woods gets elevated status at Riviera, now wants victory



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tiger Woods and his TGR Foundation took over the Genesis Open at Riviera two years ago, and now the PGA Tour is elevating it to the same status as tournaments hosted by Jack Nicklaus and the late Arnold Palmer.

Still to be determined is whether Woods can actually win the one PGA Tour event that has his number.

Riviera is where a 16-year-old Woods made his PGA Tour debut on a sponsor exemption. This is the closest PGA Tour event to where he grew up in Orange County. Riviera also is the PGA Tour course he has played the most times—nine—without winning.

“It is certainly a love-hate relationship,” Woods said Wednesday after getting through his pro-am ahead of the rain. “I love playing this golf course. I always have. I enjoyed playing up here when I was young with my dad. For some reason, I’ve only played well here one time in the tournament.”

That was in 1999, a few months before the first major overhaul in his swing took root. He was tied with Ernie Els and Ted Tryba going to the back nine before Els ran off three straight birdies and no one could catch him. Woods was runner-up his best finish at Riviera.

The real measure was in 2000, when Woods either won or was runner-up in 10 out of 11 starts on the PGA Tour.

The exception? A tie for 18th at Riviera.

Woods gets another crack in what figures to be cold, wet conditions because of another storm system that is likely to linger through the opening



Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 11th hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the final round of the Farmers Insurance golf tournament Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, in San Diego. AP

round. He is in the same group as Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy, just like last year, when Woods missed the cut for the only time in 2018 at a regular PGA Tour event.

Expectations are slightly higher, though it’s still early in the season.

Woods, who ended last season by winning the Tour Championship for his 80th career victory, had a pedestrian start to the year last month at Torrey Pines when he rallied with a 67 on the final day to tie for 20th.

“I’m in a very different position now having played an entire season, and I know what my body can and cannot

do,” he said. “So I’m looking forward to this week. Hopefully I can finally play this golf course well.”

The field is stacked, though it is missing the top two players in the world ranking as Justin Rose and Brooks Koepka are taking the week off. It includes Phil Mickelson, a two-time winner at Riviera who is coming off a victory at Pebble Beach last week.

Riviera has attracted the strongest field in regular PGA Tour events on the West Coast Swing every year since 2006, and this is no exception. The field also features Dustin Johnson, who considers Riviera his favorite track and has

a victory to show for it.

So does Bubba Watson, the defending champion and a three-time winner, though his main infatuation is that it’s not far from Hollywood and all the movie stars.

“The only thing I’ve got on Tiger is that I’ve won here,” Watson said.

Palmer bought the Bay Hill Lodge and the PGA Tour renamed it from Bay Hill to the Arnold Palmer Invitational in 2007. Muirfield Village is the course Nicklaus built, and it was the first in 2016 to offer a three-year exemption to the winner, instead of two years for other PGA Tour victories.

Palmer’s tournament re-

ceived the same status in 2017.

The Genesis Open joins them starting in 2020, offering \$9.3 million in prize money (this year it is \$7.4 million). That also means the field will shrink from 144 players this year to 120 players next year, but it will lose the Monday open qualifying it has had since 1926.

Bryson DeChambeau approved of the decision as he raved about Riviera, where his idol Ben Hogan won four times, including the U.S. Open and Los Angeles Open in the same year in 1948.

“This place has created great champions,” he said. “This golf course exposes the best

players in the world, so I think it definitely deserves it, and it’s worth everyone’s while to have the person who wins it have a three-year exemption. I think it’s a great move and can’t wait for next year.”

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said that all a tournament needs to have elevated status is to have a tournament host win 60 times or more. Woods has 80 victories, two shy of Sam Snead’s PGA Tour record. Nicklaus had 73. Palmer had 62.

“If there comes a day where someone else wins 60 events, I guess that’s a conversation we’ll have,” he said. “But sitting at 80, two away from 82, he’s in a pretty remarkable position.”

Now he sees if he can be in the winner’s position at Riviera.

Meanwhile, Woods will be playing in the 2019 WGC-Mexico Championship at Club de Golf Chapultepec in Mexico City.

“I’m playing next week,” Woods said in a press conference Wednesday prior to the Genesis Open.

WGC-Mexico Championship is scheduled for Feb. 21-24.

Woods qualified for the WGC-Mexico Championship field by virtue of his second-place finish in the 2018 FedEx Cup standings. The top 30 finishers in the FedEx Cup standings from 2018 are automatic qualifiers.

This is Woods’ first appearance in the event since 2014 and the first time he has played in Mexico. Woods is a seven-time winner (1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2013), with his victories taking place at six different venues. He won it twice at Trump National Doral outside Miami.

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Trail Blazers snap Warriors' streaks



P O R T L A N D
(AP)— All streaks must come to an end.

With a drama-filled victory over the Warriors that included the ejection of Golden State coach Steve Kerr, the Portland Trail Blazers got a confidence boost heading into the All-Star break.

Damian Lillard scored 29 points and the Blazers snapped Golden State's five-game winning streak with a 129-107 win Wednesday night. Jake Layman added 17 points off the bench for the Blazers, who rebounded after a two-game skid.

"It's really important when you can collect yourself and come home against the best team in the league right now, and just get it done," Lillard said. "I thought that said a lot about our team, our growth."

Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry each had 32 points for the Warriors, who rested DeMarcus Cousins following a victory at home over Utah the night before. Despite the loss, which ended an 11-game winning streak on the road, Golden State still goes into the break with the best record in the Western Conference.

Timberwolves 121, Rockets 11

In Minneapolis, Jeff Teague scored 27 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 and the Minnesota Timberwolves overcame James Harden's 42 points to beat the Houston Rockets.

Harden had his 31st consecutive game with 30 or more points, tying Wilt Chamberlain for the second-longest streak in league history. The NBA's leading scorer passed the 30-point mark on his 15th four-point play of the season, getting Josh Okogie in the air with one of his trademark step-back 3s to put Houston up 74-67 midway through the third.

Okogie had 16 points and sparked the Timberwolves to retake the lead with an 18-2 run. The rookie had a break-away dunk and a 3-pointer to give Minnesota a 77-74 lead, but he brought some of the biggest cheers of the night with an emphatic block on Harden's 3-point attempt with 3:40 to play.

Nets 148, Cavaliers 139, 3OT

In Cleveland, D'Angelo Russell scored 14 of his 36 points in the third overtime and Brooklyn outlasted Cleveland.

DeMarre Carroll's desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer of the second overtime tied the game, and Nets carried the momentum into the third extra session.

Russell, who is headed to



Portland Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins, left, blocks the shot of Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019. The Blazers won, 129-107.

back from a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit. NBA-leading Milwaukee has won eight of nine overall and seven straight on the road—its longest road winning streak since 1984-85.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 20 points and Darren Collison added 14 to lead Indiana.

Heat 112, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Dwyane Wade scored 22 points in what figures to be his final game on the court where he won his first championship, helping Miami beat Dallas.

The 37-year-old who has already said this is his final season was a little better despite one of the stronger games of the season for Dirk Nowitzki, his two-time NBA Finals foe whose record 21st season with the same franchise has the feel of an unofficial farewell tour.

The 40-year-old German finished two points shy of his season high with 12.

Celtics 118, Pistons 110

In Boston, Jayson Tatum scored 19 points and Gordon Hayward finished with 18 to help Boston hold off Detroit.

Hayward added eight assists

and five rebounds in his first start since Dec. 21. Al Horford finished with 17 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. Jaylen Brown had 17 points and seven rebounds.

Blake Griffin led Detroit with 32 points and eight rebounds. Andre Drummond added 21 points and 17 rebounds.

Bulls 122, Grizzlies 110

In Chicago, Otto Porter Jr. scored a career-high 37 points on 16-for-20 shooting, Robin Lopez added season-high 25 points, and Chicago beat Memphis.

Lauri Markkanen added 21 points as Chicago ended a franchise-record 11-game home losing streak with their first win at the United Center since beating Orlando on Dec. 21. The Bulls also won for just the fourth time in 22 games.

Avery Bradley scored 15 points for the Grizzlies, who lost for the second straight night.

Clippers 134, Suns 107

In Los Angeles, Lou Williams scored 30 points, Danilo Gallinari added 20 and Los Angeles routed Phoenix.

It is the second straight game that Williams has scored 30 or more points. He had a season-high 45 in Monday's loss at Minnesota.

Montrezl Harrell scored 14 of his 19 points in the first half, and Ivan Zubac scored 16 for the Clippers.

Report: Walton will definitely finish season as Lakers coach

Despite another loss, this to a basement-dwelling squad, the Los Angeles Lakers are sticking with head coach Luke Walton for at least the remainder of the season, according to a report by Brad Turner at the Los Angeles Times.

"There have been no internal discussions," Turner wrote, about an ouster for Walton after the 117-113 loss Tuesday to the Atlanta Hawks and a source said he "will definitely finish the season," per the report.

Sources told Turner, per the report, that owner Jeanie Buss, team president Magic Johnson and GM Rob Pelinka are all united in keeping Walton for the rest of the season.

They were disturbed by the 42-point loss last week to the Indiana Pacers and the 23-point loss to the Philadelphia 76ers over the weekend. But the thrilling win over the

Boston Celtics gave them hope and is what they want to see Walton continue to get from his players, per the report. The front office wants to give him the opportunity to do it.

The front office does have issues, understandably, with how things are going in L.A. Per the report, the executives see a "disconnect" between Walton and the players and feel James isn't "totally engaged." Another cited "bad body language" and another had an issue with "low energy."

Kyle Kuzma told reporters after the loss, "we just gotta make the game fun" in hopes to break out of their issues.

The team dropped below .500 at 28-29 with the loss going into the All-Star break. They're in the 10th spot in the Western Conference looking in to the playoff picture.

play in his first All-Star Game, had two points in the first half and scored Brooklyn's first 11 points in third overtime, including two 3-pointers.

Raptors 129, Wizards 120

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored a career-high 44 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, OG Anunoby scored a career-best 22 points, and Toronto beat Washington for its sixth straight win.

Serge Ibaka had 10 points and 13 rebounds, and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and 13 assists as the Raptors used a big third quarter to overcome a 12-point deficit and post their fifth straight victory over the struggling Wizards.

Nuggets 120, Kings 118

In Denver, Nikola Jokic tipped in a basket with less than

a second remaining, Isaiah Thomas hit two big 3-pointers in his long-awaited Denver debut and the Nuggets held off Sacramento.

Jokic finished with 20 points, 18 rebounds and 11 assists for his 28th career triple-double, and Paul Millsap matched a season high with 25 points as Denver overcame a 17-point first-half deficit.

Down six late, the Kings tied it on Buddy Hield's layup with 15.1 seconds. After a timeout, Jokic went to work down low, missing his first shot attempt before tipping it in. Hield's last-gasp 3-pointer was off the mark at the buzzer.

76ers 126, Knicks 111

In New York, Joel Embiid had 26 points, 14 rebounds and one flying leap over an award-winning actress into the crowd, and Philadelphia handed New York its 18th

straight loss.

Tobias Harris scored 25 points and Ben Simmons had 18 for the 76ers, who bounced back from their 112-109 home loss to Boston on Tuesday, sending themselves into the All-Star break with a 37-21 record.

Allonzo Trier scored 19 points and fellow rookie Mitchell Robinson had 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks (10-46), who remain mired in the longest losing streak during one season in franchise history.

Bucks 106, Pacers 97

In Indianapolis, Giannis Antetokounmpo started fast and finished strong, picking up a triple-double to help Milwaukee rally late for a victory over Indiana.

The three-time All-Star had 33 points, 19 rebounds and 11 assists, leading the Bucks

Schorr, Miyawaki battle for last semis berth

Darvish felt pressure after big contract with Cubs



MESA, Ariz.
(AP)—Yu Darvish

felt pressure after signing a \$126 million, six-year contract with the Chicago Cubs.

“At the time I didn’t say anything about that, but I was thinking I should do something for the Cubs. I should win 20 games,” he said Wednesday. “This year I want to be myself. I am feeling less pressure.”

Darvish went 1-3 with 4.95 ERA in eight starts during 2018, the last coming on May 20. He was sidelined by triceps and elbow injuries, and his season ended in August when an MRI showed a stress reaction in his arm after one inning of a rehab start.

The 32-year-old right-hander spoke in English, a sign he is feeling more comfortable, after his first bullpen session of spring training.

“I am feeling I am family,” he said. “I feel good

right now.”

Darvish came to the major leagues from Japan before the 2012 season and became a four-time All-Star with the Texas Rangers. He was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers in July 2017 and struggled in the World Series, losing Games 3 and 7 against Houston.

Cubs manager Joe Maddon said the fact that Darvish opened up about last year’s struggles is a sign of him maturing.

“It is always impressive when somebody exposes himself, especially on this level,” Maddon said. “It is a part of moving forward. Give him credit. I was getting to know about him last year, so I didn’t know all of that about him.”

Fellow starter Jon Lester added making the move to another organization can be difficult. After spending his first 8 1/2 years with Boston, Lester was traded to Oakland and then joined the Cubs.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Pacific Oceania’s No. 1 U16 player Robbie Schorr will play his first singles match in a local tournament today when he squares off with Malika Miyawaki in second and final week of the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Schorr, who only played in the mixed doubles event last week, as he just completed three competitions in New Zealand, will meet Miyawaki tomorrow at the American Memorial Park courts for the last semis berth in the men’s singles contest. The winner of the Schorr-Miyawaki tiff will duel CNMI Hall of Famer Jeff Race for the finals berth at the top half of the draw. The other finals ticket will be contested by No. 2 seed Jimin Woo and No. 4 Sean Lee and they will also play their semis match tomorrow, while the title game is set for Monday.

The other singles events—boys U16, U10, and U12, and girls U12—are having their semis games, too this weekend.

In the boys U16 singles, the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr gets ready to serve to Jimin Woo during a practice game at the American Memorial Park last Sunday.

Final Four pairings are No. 2 Daniel Kang against No. 3 Maria Gregoire and No. 1 Sam Ryu versus No. 4 Andy Kim. Kang was the winner of the fourth semis berth in the division, not Eugene Park as earlier posted on the tournament website’s results.

In boys U12 singles, No. 1 Juncheol Wang will go up against Wataru Kadokura, while the other semis game will have Takeru Jim battling June Yu. Yu is also in the semifinals of the boys U10 singles and will take on June Lim, while Yutaka Kadokura will collide against Lina Tsukagoshi in the other Final Four matchup.

In the girls U12 singles semifinals, No. 1 Savita Sikkell and No. 2 Irin Chung will face Hoo Wang and Dain Lee, respectively.

Also scheduled this weekend are the continuation of the boys and girls U14 singles events, which both have a round-robin format, while the mixed doubles will start its quarterfinals tomorrow.

TRIPLE J

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in a press statement.

“Triple J Saipan, Inc. would like to extend its sincere gratitude to CRM/BECQ, DLNR, Parks & Recs, DPS, DFEMS and MVA, TRAC, all event sponsors, and volunteers. Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Triple J Enterprises Inc. has served the island communities for over three decades. The Triple J group of companies has several major operations, which include the Triple J Auto Group, which represents Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Honda, Acura, Kia, and a used car dealership; Triple J Commercial Tire, which services passenger cars, light trucks, and a full range of commercial vehicles and equipment; Triple J Rentals, the licensee for Hertz Rent A Car on Guam, Saipan and Palau; Triple J 24-Hour Mini Mart located in Mobil in Upper Tumon; Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, the distributor of high-quality food items including Certified Angus Beef, Hawaii Water, and Tyson food products; Triple J Restaurant Group, which owns and operates Outback Steakhouse; and Triple J Real Estate Group, real estate brokerage and consulting firm which manages Triple J Enterprises own holdings. (PR)

RUGBY

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“It will not be an easy task going up against these high-level players and teams like Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa, so they really have to be ready with the physicality of the game,” said Ppme’e, who ran

some offensive and defensive plays during the group’s practice last Wednesday.

“We’re running situational plays because you’ll never know what will happen during the games. Plus, we’re also constantly reminding the guys of the rules of the game since most of them are new to the

sport,” Ppme’e said.

What they are lacking in experience, the CNMI rugby players are making up for it with their hard work and determination.

“We put our heart into the game and we have this island pride that we will carry when we compete in Samoa,” Mangloña said.

Iakopo added that they are

progressing every day, but they still have a lot to learn so they can keep up with high-caliber teams in Samoa. The Northern Marianas Rugby Union president also said they are looking forward to the exhibition game against Guam Rugby Club next month.

“It’s a test match for us. With

the support of coach Soni, Ed Arriola Jr., Derron Flores, and most specially the people of the CNMI, this group will go all out,” Iakopo said.

The Commonwealth bets will be competing in the rugby 7s, which will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Apia Park Stadium.

CLOSE

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season-opening game. Behind by one after four complete innings, 3-4, the Patriots-Angels scored four at the bottom of the sixth and held the Ayuyus to two runs in the last three innings, including a shutout in the fifth and seventh to prevail in the first match in the girls division.

Kiara Camacho, Richelle Ramon, Kiana Aldan, and Cassandra Camacho crossed home plate at the bottom of the sixth inning to put the game away for good. Esperanza Magofna and Marcilyn Camacho mustered two runs in the Ayuyus’ unsuccessful comeback bid.

Balas 26, Niners 5

In the other fast-pitch game, Balas overwhelmed the Niners.

Balas’ red-hot offense and airtight defense propelled them to a 19-0 advantage after three innings and the Niners never made headway throughout the game, handing the for-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Ayuyus batter watches the ball, which later went through the Patriots-Angels catcher’s hand during their game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

mer the early victory via 10-run mercy rule.

The Niners avoided being shut down in their opening game after scoring four runs

at the top of the fourth inning. However, Balas countered with seven runs at the bottom of the fourth to close out the one-sided match.

Falcons 17, Braves 12

In the opening game for the boys slow-pitch division, the Falcons muscled their way past the Braves.

The Falcons upped the ante in the fourth and fifth inning, scoring four and five runs, respectively, to put the game out of the Braves’ reach. Kobe Lifofoi, Pedro Maratita, Angel Iguel, and Ping Norita made it home at the bottom of the fourth inning for the Falcons. Lifofoi and Maratita also rounded the bases in the fifth inning, while I.J. Teigita, Dennis Cabrera, and Keoni Serrano scored the three other runs for the Falcons in that frame.

Before the Falcons took over in the fourth and fifth, the match was tied, 8-all, after three complete innings. The Braves made their eight runs in the second inning, but were silent in the third and fourth, added four in the fifth, and went cold again in the last two.

Meanwhile, the Blue Jays were awarded the outright win in the other match in the division, as the Ayuyus were not able to field enough players for the game.



Broncos to
acquire Joe Flacco
from Ravens

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Woods gets
elevated status
at Riviera, now
wants victory
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

PREPARATIONS FOR PACIFIC GAMES

Rugby team on track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Rugby Team is heading in the right direction as far as its preparations for the 2019 Pacific Games are concerned.



"I believe we are on track," team captain Paul Manglona said last Wednesday during a break in the group's training session at the American Memorial Park. "We're doing a lot of cardio and strengthening."

"The guys are working their ass off, coming to practice regularly. Everyone is doing their job, making sacrifices for the team so when the tournament



comes, we will represent the CNMI well," said Manglona, who rushes to their training session the moment he clocks out of work in the afternoon.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Management Sys-

tem employee and the 15 other players on the squad are practicing six times a week under player/coach Stanley Iakopo and coach Samisoni Ppme'e.

"We are training everyday now, whether it's on the field,

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's rugby players execute a play during their training session at the American Memorial Park last Wednesday.

gym working out, or at the beach. We are progressively raising the level of physical activity, working on ball handling skills and learning the proper fundamentals and executing plays. Now, we may not run all the plays and performing skills perfectly, and that is what we're on in every practice," Iakopo said.

As for Ppme'e, he said getting the team ready, physically, is imperative since they will be up against squads that have professional players on their roster.

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Close win for Patriots-Angels

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Patriots-Angels escaped with a close victory over the Ayuyus, as the



2019 Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch League kicked off

last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Patriots-Angels eked out a 7-6 win in their

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members and officials of the CNMI Rugby Team pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the American Memorial Park.

Triple J Saipan 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk Feb. 23

Save the date, Feb. 23, for the happiest, most colorful and foamiest run on Saipan—the Triple J Saipan 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk.

Show time is at 5am, while Zumba warm-up is at 5:15am, and the race will kick off at 6am. The 2.5-kilometer course will start and end at the Garapan Fishing Base, behind the Garapan Farmers Market with a turnaround point past the Quartermasters Road.

Early bird registration is ongoing at \$10 and will be until Feb. 22 at 4pm at four Triple J

Locations: Hertz Rent-A-Car in Garapan; Triple J Motors on Beach Road; Triple J Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa and the Surfrider Resort Hotel behind Great Harvest Bakery in Chalan Kanoa. Each registered runner will receive a custom event T-shirt and the opportunity to get "colored" during the race, a race bib to track individual start-to-finish time, and a raffle entry for thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

The Triple Saipan restaurant group will also be on site

to provide fantastic sweet and savory options for a light and healthy breakfast as D.J. Rico of Soundhire Saipan keeps the grounds lit.

"Thanks to our business partners, an endless supply of refreshments will be offered to keep everyone hydrated and alert as a live emcee raffles off thousands of dollars worth in prize packages and giveaways. Don't miss out on one of the first big, community events on Saipan," Triple J Saipan said

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Balas players are all smiles after winning their first game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch League last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.